



# Animal Welfare Institute

900 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20003

Mr. Daniel McKiernan

Director

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

251 Causeway Street, Suite 400

Boston, MA 02114

[marine.fish@mass.gov](mailto:marine.fish@mass.gov)

December 18, 2020

Dear Director McKiernan:

On behalf of the Animal Welfare Institute (AWI), I submit the following comments regarding the proposed amendments to the Division of Marine Fisheries regulations at 322 CMR 6.00, 7.00, and 12.00 designed to reduce the risk of entangling, injuring, or killing critically endangered North Atlantic right whales.

As you are aware, entanglement in fishing gear is the primary cause of significant injury and mortality to North Atlantic right whales.<sup>1</sup> The annual documented rate of anthropogenic mortality and serious injury — due to both entanglement in gear and ship strikes — has exceeded the population’s potential biological removal level (PBR) since 1995. Deaths and serious injuries caused by entanglement have been increasing since 2010.<sup>2</sup> The North Atlantic right whale is now considered one of the most critically endangered populations of large whales in the world, with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) characterizing the species as being “one step from extinction.”<sup>3</sup>

Scientists from the New England Aquarium recently released a new population estimate for North Atlantic right whales, indicating that the population numbered only 356 by the close of 2019.<sup>4</sup> Even more concerning, these researchers believe that only some 70 breeding females remain in the

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<sup>1</sup> Sharp, S. et al. (2019) Gross and histopathological diagnoses from North Atlantic right whale (*Eubalaena glacialis*) mortalities between 2003 and 2018. *Diseases of Aquatic Organisms*; 135(1), pp. 1–31. doi:10.3354/dao03376 and Hayes, S. et al. (2019) US Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Marine Mammal Stock Assessments - 2018. Woods Hole, MA: NOAA Northeast Fisheries Science Center. NOAA Tech Memo NMFS NE-245.

<sup>2</sup> Thomas, P. (2019) Marine Mammal Commission letter to NOAA Assistant Administrator for Fisheries Chris Oliver. August 12, 2019.

<sup>3</sup> IUCN (2020) Almost a third of lemurs and North Atlantic Right Whale now Critically Endangered - IUCN Red List. July 9, 2020. Available at <https://www.iucn.org/news/species/202007/almost-a-third-lemurs-and-north-atlantic-right-whale-now-critically-endangered-iucn-red-list>.

<sup>4</sup> New England Aquarium (2020) Statement on North Atlantic right whale population estimate .October 29, 2020. Available at <https://www.neaq.org/about-us/news-media/press-kit/press-releases/statement-on-north-atlantic-right-whale-population-estimate/>

population and that low birth rates coupled with the number of whale deaths “means that there could be no females left in the next 10 to 20 years.”<sup>5</sup>

It is clear that the North Atlantic right whale population cannot sustain any deaths or serious injuries if the survival and ultimate recovery of the species is to be ensured. AWI is therefore appreciative of the proactive efforts being made by the Division of Marine Fisheries to address this critical issue, although we do have comments regarding certain elements of the proposal.

### **Proposed closures**

AWI welcomes the DMF proposals to address right whale entanglement by means of time and area closures; as noted by the Food and Agriculture Organization in its 2018 report on marine mammal bycatch mitigation, “[f]or the most endangered and vulnerable populations, time-area closures are among the most preferred management measures because they remove fishing gear out of harm’s way.”<sup>6</sup> We therefore support the proposed Commercial Trap Gear Closure (322 CMR 12.04, 12.08, and 12.11); the Gillnet Closure in Cape Cod Bay (322 CMR 12.04, 12.08, and 12.12); the Recreational Lobster and Crab Trap Gear Haul-Out Season (322 CMR 6.02) and the Conch Pot Haul-Out Period (322 CMR 6.12).

Our organization is also fully supportive of the proposed Fixed Gear Closure Extensions (322 CMR 12.04). We agree with the Director’s assessment that the ability to extend these closures is necessary if there is a documented presence of right whales in Massachusetts’ waters in order to prevent the entanglement of right whales in commercial trap gear. Given that the timing and distribution of North Atlantic right whales has been changing over the last decade,<sup>7</sup> the need to take into account these temporal and spatial shifts has become increasingly apparent. As you know, this year DMF needed to extend closures for setting of commercial and recreational traps and pots in Cape Cod Bay and portions of the Outer Cape until May 8, 2020.<sup>8</sup>

Regarding the proposed Gillnet Closure in Cape Cod Bay, we note that gillnet gear has accounted for roughly 10 percent of identified fishery-related right whale deaths in the last 20 years.<sup>9</sup> As such, AWI

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<sup>5</sup>Cecco, L. (2020). Humans pushing North Atlantic right whale to extinction faster than believed. The Guardian. October 30, 2020. Available at <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/oct/30/north-atlantic-right-whale-extinction-faster-than-believed>

<sup>6</sup> FAO (2018) Report of the Expert Workshop on Means and Methods for Reducing Marine Mammal Mortality in Fishing and Aquaculture Operations, Rome, 20-23 March 2018. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report No.1231. Rome, Italy. The report noted, however the time-area closures should be implemented in a timely manner, before populations are so low that intrinsic rates of species recovery are severely hindered. For additional information see Leaper, R. and Calderan, S. (2018). Review of methods used to reduce risks of cetacean bycatch and entanglements. UNEP/CMS Secretariat, Bonn, Germany. 76 pages. CMS Technical Series No. 38 Available at: [https://d2ouvy59p0dg6k.cloudfront.net/downloads/cms\\_report\\_042918\\_web\\_pages.pdf](https://d2ouvy59p0dg6k.cloudfront.net/downloads/cms_report_042918_web_pages.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> Knowlton, A.R., Robbins, J., Landry, S., McKenna, H.A., Kraus, S.D. and Werner, T.B. (2016) Effects of fishing rope strength on the severity of large whale entanglements. Conservation Biology, 30: 318-328. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cobi.12590>

<sup>8</sup> DMF (2020). Seasonal Trap Fishing Gear Closure and Vessel Speed Restriction in Cape Cod Bay Extended Due to Presence of Whales. April 28, 2020. Available at: <https://www.mass.gov/news/division-of-marine-fisheries-extends-restrictions-to-protect-endangered-right-whales>

<sup>9</sup> NMFS, 2000-2018 Right Whale Incident Data (Mar. 19, 2019), [https://archive.fisheries.noaa.gov/garfo/protected/whaletrp/trt/meetings/April%202019/2000-2018\\_right\\_whale\\_incident\\_data\\_3\\_19\\_19v.xlsx](https://archive.fisheries.noaa.gov/garfo/protected/whaletrp/trt/meetings/April%202019/2000-2018_right_whale_incident_data_3_19_19v.xlsx). This includes at least five right whale entanglement cases documented between 2009 and 2013 that NMFS determined were likely caused by gillnets.

requests that DMF ensure that any gillnet fishery operating within the waters of the Commonwealth be considered for similar closures if a spatial/temporal overlap with right whales is determined.

### **Gear Modifications and Restrictions**

AWI supports both the proposed Vertical Buoy Line Maximum Diameter for Commercial Trap Gear (322 CMR 12.06) and the Vertical Buoy Line Maximum Diameter for Recreational Trap Gear (322 CMR 12.06), as larger diameter lines result in higher breaking strengths, which in turn increase entanglement risk and the severity of entanglements for large whales.<sup>10</sup>

With regard to the proposed 1,700-lb Breaking Strength Contrivance (322 CMR 12.02 and 12.06), AWI is concerned that while it is true that weak rope might decrease the severity of entanglement injuries suffered by right whales, this proposal reduces neither the likelihood of entanglement as line is still in the water, nor the sub-lethal impacts of entanglement on whales. Whales who break free from weak link ropes might still carry lines, and as noted by researchers, such whales are both more difficult to locate and disentangle than whales still attached to gear.<sup>11</sup> Further, Knowlton et al. have acknowledged that reduced breaking strength rope does not reduce the risk of serious injury or mortality for right whales who are less than two years old.<sup>12</sup>

As for the proposed Prohibition on Single Lobster Traps for Vessels of a Certain Size (322 CMR 12.06), while AWI acknowledges that this would reduce the number of lines in the water, we note that concerns have been raised that having multiple traps on a single line might lead to other types of entanglement threat. For example, whales that become entangled in lines with multiple pots can become anchored, and if not removed quickly from the gear, they can die due to exhaustion, inability to breathe and even post-release capture myopathy.<sup>13</sup> It has also been posited that the increased weight of multiple traps on a line might lead to more severe injuries and constraints on movements of entangled whales in many cases.<sup>14</sup>

We are supportive of the requirements for trap marking.

### **Ropeless gear**

The sheer volume of endlines and traplines in the water column in right whale habitat, especially for American lobster, poses a significant threat to the survival of the species.<sup>15</sup> As noted by the DMF in

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<sup>10</sup> FAO (2018).

<sup>11</sup> Moore, M. (2019) How we can all stop killing whales: a proposal to avoid whale entanglement in fishing gear, ICES Journal of Marine Science, Volume 76, Issue 4, July-August 2019, Pages 781–786, <https://doi.org/10.1093/icesjms/fsy194>

<sup>12</sup> Knowlton et al. (2016).

<sup>13</sup> Recht, F. (2019). Long-lining pot gear for whale entanglement benefit? ( i.e. stringing multiple pots together with groundline to reduce the number of vertical lines in the water—with or without ropeless gear). Report to the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission. 47 pp.

<sup>14</sup>Werner, T. and McClellan-Press, K. (2017) Global Assessment of Large Whale Entanglement and Bycatch Reduction in Fixed Fishing Gear Final Report. NOAA Award Number: NA15NMF4630357. It was noted, however, that there may be occasions when the added weight could help provide resistance, thus helping the whale to break free.

<sup>15</sup> Boenish R. , Chen Y. (2018) Spatiotemporal dynamics of effective fishing effort in the American lobster (*Homarus americanus*) fishery along the coast of Maine, USA. Fisheries Research, 199: 231–241 and Hayes S. A. , Gardiner S., Garrison L. P., Henry A.

March 2020, “[r]opeless fishing represents another possible means to mitigate acute entanglement risk.”<sup>16</sup> AWI agrees with this, and contends that ropeless, on-demand gear provides the best long-term solution to eliminate right whale entanglement in vertical lines.

This view is also supported by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), which has acknowledged that this gear “is an emerging option that could alleviate a lot of th[e] risk” of entanglement and that “[t]he ability to use gear retrieval devices that do not require the use of stationary buoy lines in the water column would be a truly game changing development for right whales.”<sup>17</sup> Such gear is being or has been tested in the United States, Australia, Canada, and Scotland, and manufacturers are increasingly developing new ropeless gear options.<sup>18</sup>

AWI welcomes DMF’s March 2020 commitment to permit and promote tests of ropeless fishing in areas and at times that do not have a high risk of conflict with other fisheries,<sup>19</sup> and as long as such experimental testing is done safely and responsibly. While we are aware that concerns have been raised regarding on-demand gear location mechanisms, due to the potential for gear loss and/or fouling of gear by trawlers or scallop dredgers,<sup>20</sup> AWI notes that there have been advancements made in recent years in both GPS and acoustic modem technology that address the concerns raised above, as well as state and federal regulatory requirements.<sup>21</sup>

## **Conclusion**

In addition to the population-level risks posed by entanglement, AWI emphasizes that this is a serious animal welfare issue. Right whales are sentient and social animals, and the fact that individual whales of all ages are being exposed to potential entanglement warrants significant concern. Entanglement not only interferes with swimming and feeding, it can lead to chronic infections, damage to blubber, muscle and bone, and starvation. Suffering can be prolonged, and whales have been known to die weeks or even months after the initial entanglement event.<sup>22</sup>

AWI draws the Division’s attention to the fact that the Marine Mammal Commission has advocated for a far more stringent risk reduction than the 60 percent proposal:

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G., Leandro L. (2018) North Atlantic Right Whales – Evaluating Their Recovery Challenges in 2018 NOAA Technical Memorandum NMFS-NE-247 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Marine Fisheries Service Northeast Fisheries Science Center Woods Hole, Massachusetts

<sup>16</sup>McKiernan, D. (2020) Massachusetts Right Whale Conservation Plan 2020. Letter from D. McKiernan to Michael Pentony, Regional Administrator, NOAA Fisheries GARFO. March 6, 2020.

<sup>17</sup> NMFS (2020) North Atlantic Right Whales and the Dangers of Vessel Strikes and Entanglement. Available at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/feature-story/north-atlantic-right-whales-and-dangers-vessel-strikes-and-entanglement>

<sup>18</sup> Baumgartner, M. et al. (2018).Ropeless Workshop Report: Overcoming Development, Regulatory and Funding Challenges for Ropeless Fishing to Reduce Whale Entanglement in the U.S. and Canada (Feb. 1, 2018). Available at: [https://ropeless.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/112/2018/03/Ropeless\\_Workshop\\_Report.pdf](https://ropeless.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/112/2018/03/Ropeless_Workshop_Report.pdf).

<sup>19</sup> McKiernan (2020).

<sup>20</sup> Myers, H., Moore, M. et al. (2019). Ropeless fishing to prevent large whale entanglements: Ropeless Consortium report. Marine Policy. 107. 103587. 10.1016/j.marpol.2019.103587.

<sup>21</sup> Meyers (2019) and The Fishing Gear Location Marking Fund. <https://www.gear-fund.org/>

<sup>22</sup> Moore (2019) and Dolman, S. and Brakes, P. (2018) Sustainable Fisheries Management and the Welfare of Bycaught and Entangled Cetaceans. *Frontiers in Veterinary Science* vol. 5 2018. Available at: [www.frontiersin.org/article/10.3389/fvets.2018.00287](http://www.frontiersin.org/article/10.3389/fvets.2018.00287)

*In light of the recent deaths, the Commission believes that NMFS, in meeting its responsibility to reduce right whale mortality and serious injury to below PBR, needs to expand upon the TRT's recommendations. The Commission therefore recommends that NMFS identify a suite of mitigation measures projected to reach the risk reduction target's upper limit (80 percent) for each state or lobster management area (LMA)....<sup>23</sup>*

Further, in expressing its serious concern over the right whale's status, the International Whaling Commission's Scientific Committee has called on the U.S. and Canada to make every effort to reduce human-induced threats, including entanglement in fishing gear, to zero.<sup>24</sup>

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at [kate.oconnell@balaena.org](mailto:kate.oconnell@balaena.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kate O'Connell', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Kate O'Connell  
Marine Wildlife Consultant  
Animal Welfare Institute

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<sup>23</sup>Thomas letter to Chris Oliver per supranote 2.

<sup>24</sup>IWC (2020) Report of the Scientific Committee May 2020, at page 40. Available at: <https://iwc.int/sc68b>.

**From:** [Michaela Morris](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Comments on Proposed Amendments to Division of Marine Fisheries regulations  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:30:33 PM

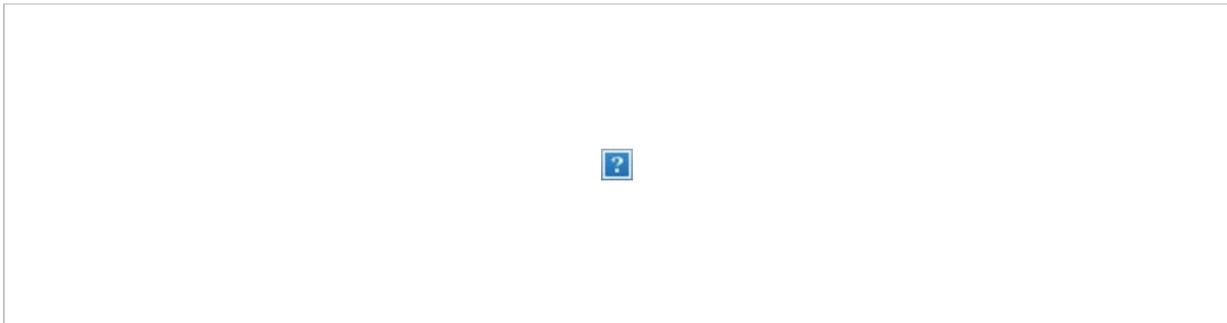
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Dear Director McKiernan,

Below, please find comments on behalf of Environment Massachusetts and Massachusetts River Alliance on the proposed amendments to the proposed amendments to the Division of Marine Fisheries regulations to reduce right whale entanglements.

Best,  
Michaela Morris



Dear Director McKiernan,

On behalf of Environment Massachusetts and the Massachusetts Rivers Alliance, I submit the following comments regarding the Division of Marine Fisheries' draft regulations to reduce the risk of large whale entanglement in fixed fishing gear.

First, we would like to thank the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries for drafting strong proposed regulations that take bold steps toward protecting right whales from entanglement events and prioritizes ocean health. The rules that the Division of Marine Fisheries drafted pave the way toward a healthy future for the species.

In particular, we would like to thank the Division of Marine Fisheries for the extension of the Feb. 1 – Apr. 30 commercial trap gear closure in Cape Cod Bay to all waters under the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth. We know that entanglements in fishing gear serve as a top threat to right whales, and the best way to prevent these entanglements is by limiting the amount of vertical fishing line that the right whales encounter. These closures achieve a significant reduction in risk, as they remove lines from the water during a time when right whales tend to congregate in Massachusetts coastal ocean.

We also would like to extend our thanks for the extension of the Jan. 1–May 15 gillnet closure in Cape Cod Bay to include additional waters.

Finally, we want to share our full support for the inclusion of language that vests the Commonwealth with the power to extend the time frame of these closures. Taken together, these measures represent the kind of bold action that we need to save this species from extinction.

In the final rule, we believe one addition would make these regulations even stronger: we would like to see the rules include a definition of ropeless fishing gear, followed by language that creates a process that encourages and promotes the adoption of ropeless fishing technology within the broader Massachusetts fishing industry.

To keep our beloved oceans clean and healthy, we must strive to forge a culture that prioritizes the wellbeing of our ocean ecosystems. This work begins with standing up for our most vulnerable species -- the North Atlantic right whale, and we commend the Division of Marine Fisheries for rising to the challenge. The next step to forge a safe, healthy future for the whales is to consider how the Commonwealth can support the widespread development and implementation of ropless fishing gear.

Thank you for all your work.

Best,  
Michaela Morris  
Oceans Associate, Environment Massachusetts

Julia Blatt  
Executive Director, Massachusetts Rivers Alliance

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Michaela Morris  
Oceans Associate  
(603) 918-8951  
[mmorris@environmentamerica.org](mailto:mmorris@environmentamerica.org)

Dec 18, 2020

SMELTS, 1003 Iowa Heights Rd, Sedro Woolley WA, 98284  
(360) 303-9338, smelts.org

Daniel McKiernan  
Director  
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA 02114  
[marine.fish@mass.gov](mailto:marine.fish@mass.gov)

Dear Director McKiernan:

I am submitting the following comments on behalf of Sea Mammal Education Learning Technology Society (SMELTS) regarding proposed amendments to Division of Marine Fisheries regulations at 322 CMR 6.00, 7.00, and 12.00 designed to reduce risk of entangling, injuring, or killing critically endangered North Atlantic right whales.

As the Executive Director of SMELTS I applaud the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries for its consistent efforts in protecting both North Atlantic right whales and its fisheries. Regarding Commercial Trap Gear Closure (322 CMR 12.04, 12.08, and 12.11) SMELTS supports this proposed amendment to increase the area covered by the current Large Whale Seasonal Trap Gear Closure to include all waters of the Commonwealth.

We also recommend that DMF modify the definition of this closure to allow the commercial use of Ropeless/Line Free fishing technology such that; all vendors of ropeless fishing gear can provide equipment to fishermen for evaluation.

SMELTS Lobster Raft™ began fishing its ropeless lobster gear with partner fishermen Rob Martin under a Letter of Authorization from the Department of Massachusetts Fisheries in 2019 and continues into 2020. The Lobster Raft has proved to be a safe and efficient line free fishing system. Collaboration and positive feedback from commercial fishermen, science and regulatory agencies encourages SMELTS to continue developing these new fishing tools. Hundreds of ropeless deployments have been recorded by the Northeast Fisheries Science Center. Fishing for ropeless lobster with Hybrid Trawls in the Gulf of Maine has demonstrated SMELTS lift bag technology as dependable and adaptable in commercial fishing settings. SMELTS understands the challenges of marking ropeless gear virtually and looks forward to working with DMF on solutions to this challenging problem for ropeless fishing. Therefore we are submitting a brief White Paper titled **(SMELTS' Hybrid Trawl Solution for Introduction of Line Free/Ropeless Fishing in Lobster Fisheries)** to describe the system(s) that SMELTS believes should be allowed to be fished in US waters if fishermen so desire.

SMELTS also recommends that as DMF continues the introduction of ropeless gear for lobster trawls, this process be staged using SMELTS' Hybrid Trawl technique and marked with SmartBuoys and be equipped with 1700lb breaking strength active buoy lines.

Again, we thank you for the opportunity to comment and for the work of the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries to protect its natural resources and its vibrant commercial fisheries.

Sincerely, Richard Riels Executive Director SMELTS [info@smelts.org](mailto:info@smelts.org)



12/18/20

**From:** [Steve O'Leary](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 6:58:38 PM

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

null

Dear Director McKiernan,

As a resident of Massachusetts, where the ocean forms an integral part of our state identity, keeping our beaches, coasts, and marine species and habitats healthy matters deeply to me. North Atlantic right whales, which swim in Massachusetts' waters, are one of our most at-risk species.

First, I'd like to thank you and the Division of Marine Fisheries for drafting a strong proposed rule. In particular, I was glad to see the inclusion of more seasonal closures to fishing during the time of year that right whales are likely to be in the area. This is the type of bold action we'll need to save these whales.

I write today to urge you to include language that implements a pathway for the development and implementation of ropeless fishing gear. We know that the best way to prevent entanglements is to remove rope from the water, and the development and adoption of ropeless gear will provide a long term solution to this problem.

Sincerely,  
Steve O'Leary  
15 Hawthorne St  
Woburn, MA 01801

**From:** [Bridget Spann](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 7:14:32 PM

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

null

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I write today to urge you to include language that implements a pathway for the development and implementation of ropeless fishing gear. We know that the best way to prevent entanglements is to remove rope from the water, and the development and adoption of ropeless gear will provide a long term solution to this problem.

Sincerely,  
Bridget Spann  
1210 Hancock Rd.  
Williamstown, MA 01267

CAPE COD COMMERCIAL  
**FISHERMEN'S  
ALLIANCE**

**Small Boats. Big Ideas.**

18 December 2020

Director Daniel McKiernan  
MA Division of Marine Fisheries  
251 Causeway Street  
Suite 400  
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Director McKiernan,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed protected species regulations affecting trap and gillnet fishing.

The Cape Cod Commercial Fishermen's Alliance is a member-based, non-profit organization that works to build lasting solutions to protect our ecosystem and the future of our fisheries. The Fishermen's Alliance represents 150 fishing businesses and more than 300 fishing families, making our organization the leading voice for commercial fishermen on Cape Cod. We are deeply invested in the scientific assessments and public policies that impact our communities.

Our fishermen members have been at the forefront of testing and developing gear modifications to reduce the risk of entanglement and potential harm to whales. In pioneering these technologies, fishermen have undertaken financial risk and contributed a significant amount of time and energy into these developments. As with all gear modifications, the industry carries the financial burden in the proposed regulations.

Overall, we support measures to reduce risk of entanglements that reasonably modify fishermen's existing gear and prioritize safety of fishermen. The following are comments specific to the draft regulations.

**Fixed Gear Closures:**

*4. Recreational Lobster and Crab Trap Gear Haul-Out Season (322 CMR 6.02). DMF is proposing to implement a new closed season for buoyed recreational lobster and crab trap gear. The closed season would run from the Tuesday following Columbus Day through the Friday preceding Memorial Day. We support the proposed recreational lobster and crab trap gear haul-out season. We believe this measure will both reduce the risk of untended recreational trap gear becoming "ghost gear," and reduce risk of entanglement in recreational gear.*

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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS** Nick Muto, *Chairman* • Gwen Holden Kelly, *Treasurer* • Greg Connors, *Vice-Chairman* • Brian Sherin, *Clerk*  
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1566 Main Street, Chatham, MA 02633 (508) 945-2432 info@capecodfishermen.org [www.capecodfishermen.org](http://www.capecodfishermen.org)

### **Trap Gear Configuration Modifications and Restrictions:**

1. *1,700-lb Breaking Strength Contrivance (322 CMR 12.02 and 12.06).* DMF is proposing that all vertical buoy lines break when exposed to 1,700 pounds of pressure. This may be accommodated by fishing buoy lines with a 1,700 pound breaking strength or by rigging the buoy line with a contrivance or multiple contrivances that allows for it to break at that pressure.

2. *Vertical Buoy Line Maximum Diameter for Commercial Trap Gear (322 CMR 12.06).* DMF is proposing that all vertical buoy lines affixed to commercial trap gear have a diameter not greater than 3/8".

We support both the 1,700lb breaking strength contrivance/buoyline and the maximum of 3/8" diameter buoyline. We hope DMF will continue to develop these regulations in consultation with fishermen, and use methods that are readily adaptable to existing fishing gear.

3. *Vertical Buoy Line Maximum Diameter for Recreational Trap Gear (322 CMR 12.06).* DMF is proposing that all vertical buoy lines affixed to recreational lobster and crab trap gear have a diameter not greater than 5/16".

We support a maximum of 5/16" diameter for recreational trap gear.

4. *Prohibition on Single Lobster Traps for Vessels of a Certain Size (322 CMR 12.06).* DMF is proposing to prohibit the fishing of single lobster traps onboard vessels with an overall length of 29' or greater.

These vessels will be required to configure their traps as multi-trap trawls. Vessels with an overall length of less than 29' may continue to fish single lobster traps where authorized; the setting of single lobster traps by any vessel of any size will remain prohibited north of Cape Cod seaward of the three nautical mile line and the Billingsgate exempted area. DMF is proposing that this regulation go into effect on January 1, 2022.

We hope that in establishing a length restriction for prohibiting single trap fishing, DMF continues to see fishermen's safety as highest priority. Our local lobster trawl fleet tends to be greater than 36 feet. We recognize that the proposed regulation length of 29 feet will impact several Outer Cape lobstermen that traditionally fish single traps on vessels under 36 feet. We anticipate DMF carefully examining vessel operations for various length vessels and weighing the risks to fishermen's safety.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



John Pappalardo  
CEO



**From:** [Karen Sankey](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fishing regulations  
**Date:** Sunday, December 20, 2020 2:23:59 PM

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Dear Director Kiernan,

I understand that a new fishing plan is being proposed and I want to strongly urge you to include ropeless fishing in the plan. Fishing ropes are the cause of many deaths of whales, many of which are endangered. They are wonderful creatures who suffer needlessly at the hands of fishing boats. Please do all you can to alleviate this problem.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Karen and Bill Sankey  
12 Jamies Path  
Plymouth, MA 02360

**From:** [C.D](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fishing technology and Right Whales  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:13:25 PM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern;

I am writing to you today to ask that you consider supporting the use of safe (and sound) ropeless technology. It would be a credit to you if you opened the discussion reinforcing the concept of investing in ropeless tech because it is more viable and the only solution to a growing problem... Namely the extinction of precious marine life (Right Whales in particular).

Thanking you in advance for your consideration,

Yours truly,

Corinne de Langavant

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Virus-free. [www.avast.com](http://www.avast.com)

**From:** [Silva, Jared \(FWE\)](#)  
**To:** [Kaplan, Julia \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: Proposed whale measures comment.  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:56:12 PM

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**From:** JARRETT DRAKE <jarrettdrake@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 18, 2020 3:37 PM  
**To:** Silva, Jared (FWE); McKiernan, Dan (FWE)  
**Subject:** Proposed whale measures comment.

**CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

Hello Dan and Jared,

I clearly realize where we are at and how we got here, and fully understand the reasons behind these proposed rules. That being said, I am taking this opportunity to formally go on record expressing my concerns about the negative impacts of these measures.

As you already know, MA Area 2 lobstermen do quite well in the winter months, and this proposed closed season will have significant financial impacts on our annual incomes. Especially since SNE is considered to be depleted, we need all the time we can get to earn a living. The proposed weak contrivances and/or weak rope will also have financial impacts in the form of initial costs and lost gear. The proposed trawling up mandate is potentially dangerous for some fishermen, especially the ones that fish alone. And, this rule would conflict with the antiquated Gosnold no-trawl MA State law that I have been fighting to amend for the past 10 years. Special rope markings are something that fishermen were gladly willing to do to show that we were not the ones harming whales. But, when rope came up in dead whales even without our markings, we still got blamed for it. So, what good are future marking schemes going to do except cause an unnecessary burden for fishermen that clearly doesn't matter anyways.

Lastly, even though not in this proposal, I vehemently oppose the idea of ropeless fishing in its current development! We have a long way to go with funding of this overly expensive system, implementation of ever single ocean going fishing vessel simultaneously implementing this technology at the same time, and existing law amendments. And for the extremely rare possibility of a right whale in Area 2 waters where I fish? Despite the whale people's concerns, not every whale gets caught in every rope. The actual chance of entanglement is quite low, even in high coexistence situations. The actual reasons for pushing ropeless fishing have more to do with financial gain and public perception than actually preventing an entanglement.

Again, I know how we got here. But, the answer should lie in amending the ESA and MMPA. The current language of those laws do not account for a species' upward trends, just a fictitious threshold that we may never get to. And, as the population increases, the co-occurrences will also increase, this inducing more restrictions. It's an unfortunate situation where impacted occupations will never be able to satisfy these laws. We are set up for failure from the start. I encourage our politicians and elected officials to address this issue instead of always the knee jerk reaction of trying to appease these overly restrictive laws every few years.

Thank you,

Jarrett Drake  
508-789-9809

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

**From:** [McKiernan, Dan \(FWE\)](#)  
**To:** [Kaplan, Julia \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Protected species  
**Date:** Monday, December 21, 2020 4:57:58 AM

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-----Original Message-----

From: Mark Mooney <fvretriever@aol.com>  
Sent: Friday, December 18, 2020 5:05 PM  
To: McKiernan, Dan (FWE) <dan.mckiernan@mass.gov>  
Subject: Protected species

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Dan,

Hello. My name is Mark Mooney and I would like to state that I fully understand the situation regarding the need for action regarding the endangered species act. However the one proposed regulation putting a size limit on boats fishing single traps puts me in a difficult spot, I fish in the outer cape with four foot half round wood frame traps out of a 35 foot boat that was not designed to fish trawls. I understand rules are going to change But the size cutoff would require me to put all new decks in to safely cut the stern out and limit my ability to move gear efficiently. If some change to the singles/size rule is possible it would be greatly appreciated.

you, Mark Mooney

Thank

**From:** [McKiernan, Dan \(FWE\)](#)  
**To:** [Kaplan, Julia \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Support for South Coast Lobstermen  
**Date:** Monday, December 21, 2020 4:46:59 AM

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**From:** dmedvec@rcn.com <dmedvec@rcn.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 20, 2020 10:49 AM  
**To:** McKiernan, Dan (FWE) <dan.mckiernan@mass.gov>  
**Subject:** Support for South Coast Lobstermen

**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Mckirnan,

The right whale is in need of and deserves whatever protection we can offer. Closing lobstering in Massachusetts waters during the winter months may well make a strong contribution to its survival. However, I urge you to give honest consideration to the rationale offered by Dug Dur as he makes a compelling case for modifying the prospective winter/spring closure of lobster grounds in Massachusetts. Please see enclosed map and his comments below.

Thank you. Please stay safe and healthy during the rest of this Covid holiday season.

Sincerely,  
Diane Medvec  
9 Locust St  
Mattapoisett, MA 02739  
508-758-2718

See enclosed map and comments from Dug Dur: "The messy red mark is where the inshore lobsterman from the south coast fish during the winter/spring months. All areas in green are about to be closed by the state. Although the catch isn't at it highest rate, the price during these months is historically high. Depending on the boat this will be a 20-30% reduction in total value and roughly 15-20% of the yearly landings. Already operating on slim margins this will most definitely impact the guys here on the southcoast and put their livelihoods at stake.

The reason for this is to protect right whales. As conservationists we have not only met all previous regulations but we have worked with the state to help reduce entanglements.

So here is the issue. I have somewhere in the ballpark of 2000 days over 20,000 hours over the last 20 plus years in that little red area. I have never witnessed a right whale in those waters, never. Nor do I know anyone who has. I'm not saying one has never wondered off migration. But if they do we're ready. Reduced vertical lines by trap reductions, whales safe rope, breakaways that create a weak point on vertical lines. We have done what we can and have literally reduced whale entanglement to 0 in this area. Typically the migration path brings them just off the southeast corner of Nantucket.

South coast lobster businesses can't take this type of economic impact. There are no right whales in these water to save. A closure in this area won't save one whale but it will put people out of business."

|\_\_\_\_\_|

December 18, 2020

Daniel McKiernan  
Director  
Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF)  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA 02114

Re: Comments to DMF regulations

Dear Director McKiernan,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on behalf of the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) on the proposed amendments to regulations at 322 CMR 6.00 and 12.00 designed to reduce the risks to North Atlantic right whales from entanglement in fishing gear.

As you know, the North Atlantic right whale is in crisis. It is one of the most endangered marine species in the world, with an estimated 356 individuals remaining, many of whom annually feed in and around Massachusetts waters.<sup>1</sup> Since 2017, 12.5% of the known population of right whales have died or are presumed dead – alarming scientists, policymakers, and advocates working to protect the species.<sup>2</sup> IFAW-led research has shown that entanglement in fishing gear is the leading threat to right whales, with nearly 60% of determined causes of death between 2003 and 2019 due to entanglement.<sup>3</sup>

Given these urgent circumstances, we are encouraged that Massachusetts has proposed additional regulations to mitigate entanglement risk to right whales. However, the proposed rules are insufficient and ignore important approaches and opportunities, and we therefore offer the following comments:

1. Massachusetts should provide a viable strategy for ropeless fishing technology in these proposed amendments. Ropeless fishing eliminates the need for fishermen to have vertical buoy rope in the water column except during the final stage of active retrieval, thereby drastically reducing the risk of entanglement to whales. However, currently this much-needed technology is excluded from the regulations. Reducing vertical buoy rope in the water will protect right whales from the risks of entanglement, while allowing fishermen to continue to maintain – and even expand – their access to important fishing areas. Ropeless gear technology is the most effective long-term solution that can reduce the risks of

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<sup>1</sup> Greenhalgh, E. (2020). Right Whale Consortium Releases 2020 Report Card Update. Anderson Cabot Center. Retrieved from <https://www.andersoncabotcenterforoceanlife.org/blog/2020-narwc-report-card/>

<sup>2</sup> NOAA. (2020). 2017-2019 North Atlantic Right Whale Unusual Mortality Event. Retrieved from <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/marine-life-distress/2017-2019-north-atlantic-right-whale-unusual-mortality-event>

<sup>3</sup> Sharp, SM., McLellan, WA., Rostein, AM., et al. (2019). Gross and histopathologic diagnoses from North Atlantic right whale *Eubalaena glacialis* mortalities between 2003 and 2018. Inter-Research Science Publisher. Retrieved from <https://www.semanticscholar.org/paper/Gross-and-histopathologic-diagnoses-from-North-2003-Sharp-McLellan/4da1a5202873da9475fa09e0af5b9ebc60297fa5>

entanglement, ensure fishermen can pursue their livelihoods, and protect the marine ecosystem.

2. Specifically, ropeless technology should operate through a permitting process. This legal path for ropeless would incentivize fishermen to use alternative gear that does not harm whales and still allows fishing to continue. Current one-off Letter of Authorizations (LOAs) granting use of non-compliant gear for ropeless experimentation are not long-term solutions. Instead, Massachusetts should incentivize lobstermen, including allowing access to those proposed closed areas where historic seasonal whale density is very low if at all, in a carefully controlled, monitored way.
3. Regarding the implementation of 1700-pound breaking strength rope (i.e., “weak rope”), it will neither protect calves or juveniles from lethal entanglements, nor eliminate the long-term health impacts on adults chronically entangled in gear. Calves and some juveniles are not likely to be able to generate sufficient force to break 1700 lbs. of rope.<sup>4</sup> Chronic entanglement in any line can have sub-lethal impacts on right whales, and is likely a major contributing factor to their reduced reproductive rates in recent years. Only by reducing vertical buoy rope in the water will we make strides to save right whales from extinction.
  - As an example of the inability of weak rope to protect juveniles, and the cascading effect on the future population, we point your attention to the mother of one of the first right whale calves born this season, right whale #4040 “Chimineia.” In April 2011, when she was just four years old, “Chimineia” was sighted entangled in hundreds of feet of line in Cape Cod Bay. As young as she was, “Chimineia” would not have been protected by reduced breaking strength systems. Fortunately, in her case, she was successfully disentangled and able to contribute to population growth, and recently sighted off Georgia with her first calf on December 4, 2020. Massachusetts cannot continue to rely on disentanglement as the solution to the entanglement problem; to protect all right whales that frequent Massachusetts waters, the state must remove all rope from the water column and not just replace it with weak rope.
4. In recent years, right whale deaths in waters off Massachusetts have been documented in April, May, July, August, September, October, and November. These mortality data indicate that the current and proposed seasonal closures alone are not sufficient to protect right whales in Massachusetts state waters.

The International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) is a Massachusetts-based nonprofit organization with experts across the U.S. and around the world. Our Marine Mammal Rescue and Research team, located on Cape Cod, is one of the leaders in right whale mortality investigations and provides on the ground expertise to evaluate causes of death in this critically endangered species. Our campaign to protect and save North Atlantic right whales is founded on our desire to seek out collaborative, pragmatic solutions that bring together diverse stakeholders in pursuit of meaningful change on the water. We have a long history of working with fishermen to understand their concerns and find a sustainable path forward by: facilitating and subsidizing sinking ground line; partnering with fishermen to test, refine, and promote ropeless fishing technology; and working with gear manufacturers to ensure their innovations can come to market. It is with this collective

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<sup>4</sup> Knowlton, AR., Robbins, R., Landry S., et al. (2015). Effects of fishing rope strength on the severity of large whale entanglements. *Society for Conservation Biology*. Retrieved from <https://conbio.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/cobi.12590>

experience that we advocate for the inclusion of ropeless fishing technology in regulations as a present-day reality to save right whales.

Scientists estimate that if recent increases in mortality and low annual calf production (the result of sub-lethal effects from chronic entanglement) continue, the species will become functionally extinct within our lifetimes. Additional substantive measures must be taken now to save this species on the brink of extinction. DMF can help accomplish this by including ropeless as a permitted solution to protect right whales in the current proposed changes to the regulations.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment and for your and DMF's work on this urgent conservation challenge. IFAW scientists and experts would be pleased to engage with you and your staff in whatever ways would be helpful to you.

Sincerely,



Azzedine Downes  
President and CEO  
International Fund for Animal Welfare



Patrick Ramage  
Senior Director and Massachusetts resident  
International Fund for Animal Welfare  
Yarmouth Port, MA



## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

191<sup>st</sup> General Court  
State House, Boston, MA 02133

Director McKiernan at  
251 Causeway Street  
Suite 400, Boston  
MA 02114

December 18, 2020

Director McKiernan,

We are writing to express our thoughts about the proposed draft regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales by fixed fishing gear like trap pots and gillnets.

We would first like to applaud the Division for the proposed draft regulations on expanding trap closures to all state waters during the spring. The current closure, which is from February 1- April 30 in the waters north and east of Cape Cod, has helped to prevent entanglements when we have observed a presence of North Atlantic right whales. Extending the time period and adding additional miles to the state closure will help conserve this species. We further appreciate the Massachusetts lobster industry's compliance with these regulations and for their constructive partnership in helping to save right whales. We also ask the Division to consider a permitting pathway for the use ropeless gear in state waters.

The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that marine life like the North Atlantic right whale must navigate through in order to migrate and feed. Right whales migrate to the Commonwealth's waters during the spring and summer months, and encounter ropes from lobster pots and gillnets off and near Cape Cod Bay and Nantucket.

This year, we have seen at least three sub-lethal reported entanglements. Dragon, a 19-year-old female of breeding age, was found in February traveling slowly off the coast of Nantucket with a buoy and particles of rope lodged directly in her mouth. This must have made feeding difficult for her, as Dragon was severely emaciated, and her skin tone was unusually light. An Entanglement Response Team was set out to help her shed the gear, but they were unable to locate her. It is presumed Dragon is dead. Dragon's third calf, a four-year-old male right whale, was spotted off the coast of New Jersey in extremely poor condition, and with large lesions on his body due to rope entanglement. Teams were also unable to help Dragon's son shed the ropes

wrapped around his body. Another male nicknamed Aquarium was spotted off the coast of Massachusetts during an aerial survey in October. Luckily, the Center for Coastal Studies Response Team was able to remove part of the gear, but full disentanglement could not be achieved. It is unknown if these two additional whales have passed.

Scientists, veterinarians, and members of the Marine Entanglement Response Team at the New England Aquarium have documented over 1,500 entanglements of right whales since 1980. The team has seen a significant increase in severe injuries and deaths attributed to entanglements. The Response Team estimates that approximately 85 percent of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled twice or more. Some right whales have even been entangled as many as eight times in their lives. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining. Right whales could be extinct within our lifetime.

We are encouraged by the draft regulations but worry that right whales still face entanglement risks. For instance, the draft regulations require use of 1700 pound breaking strength rope for vertical fishing lines attached to trap pots; this could still harm neonates and young right whale calves who are not fully developed. This breaking strength rope, colloquially called “weak rope”, is not a long-term solution to the issue of North Atlantic right whale entanglements. Ropeless fishing gear, instead, is ultimately what should be considered by DMF to save this critically endangered species.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world: it has been used by fishermen in Australia, the UK, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various ropeless gear models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. Seven private companies have devices that can be used by fishermen today, and many of these devices are being used in tests in our state waters today. Ropeless gear has the ability to significantly reduce entanglement threats during the months not applicable to the closure of state waters to recreational and commercial lobster fishing. In 2020, we observed right whales were observed in Massachusetts waters in the summer and fall months, during which there is no closure of federal or state waters. Certainly we appreciate that ropeless gear is costly to implement, particularly for a small boat fishery such as the lobster industry, and that logistical hurdles (e.g. delineation of the location of gear without buoys) will need to be overcome. Nonetheless, implementation of ropeless gear provides the promise of keeping fishermen on the water during the presence of right whales and should be pursued.

While we know that the Division already has the authority to issue ropeless permits on a case-by-case basis, we encourage DMF to outline a ropeless gear permitting pathway to help save both the fishing industry and right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and a permitting pathway would provide predictability to what the fisheries can expect and harvest

accordingly. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the Commonwealth's marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership in this most urgent matter.

Senator Julian Cyr  
*Cape and Islands*

Representative Dylan Fernandes  
*Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket*

Senator Harriette Chandler  
*First Worcester*

Representative Louis Kafka  
*8<sup>th</sup> Norfolk*

Senator Cindy Creem  
*First Middlesex and Norfolk*

Representative Ruth Balser  
*12<sup>th</sup> Middlesex*

Senator Mike Barrett  
*3<sup>rd</sup> Middlesex*

Representative Mike Connolly  
*26<sup>th</sup> Middlesex*

Senator Marc Pacheco  
*First Plymouth and Bristol*

Representative Dan Ryan  
*2<sup>nd</sup> Suffolk*

Senator Walter Timilty  
*Norfolk, Bristol and Plymouth*

Representative Jay Livingston  
*8<sup>th</sup> Suffolk*

Senator Sal DiDomenico  
*Middlesex and Suffolk*

Representative Roselee Vincent  
*16<sup>th</sup> Suffolk*

Senator Brendan Crighton  
*Third Essex*

Representative Dan Cahill  
*10<sup>th</sup> Essex*

Senator Joan Lovely  
*Second Essex*

Representative Andy Vargas  
*3<sup>rd</sup> Essex*

Senator John Velis  
*Fourth Hampden*

Representative Peter Capano  
*10<sup>th</sup> Essex*

Senator Jo Comerford  
*Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester*

Representative Lori Ehrlich  
*8<sup>th</sup> Essex*

Senator Jason Lewis  
*Fifth Middlesex*

Representative Tami Gouveia  
*14<sup>th</sup> Middlesex*

Senator Joan Lovely  
*Second Essex*

Representative Paul Tucker  
*7<sup>th</sup> Essex*

Senator Mike Rush  
*Norfolk and Suffolk*

Representative Dave Rogers  
*24<sup>th</sup> Middlesex*

Representative Sean Garballey  
*23<sup>rd</sup> Middlesex*

Representative Joe McGonagle  
*28<sup>th</sup> Middlesex*

Representative Adrian Madaro  
*1<sup>st</sup> Suffolk*

Representative Kevin Honan  
*17<sup>th</sup> Suffolk*

Representative Tom Walsh  
*12<sup>th</sup> Essex*

Rep. Joe McGonagle  
*28<sup>th</sup> Middlesex*

Representative Tricia Farley-Bouvier  
*3<sup>rd</sup> Berkshire*

Representative James Arciero  
*2<sup>nd</sup> Middlesex*

Representative Christine Barber  
*34<sup>th</sup> Middlesex*



# LOBSTERLIFT

Director McKiernan at  
251 Causeway Street  
Suite 400, Boston  
MA 02114

December 18, 2020

Director McKiernan,

My name is Cormac Hondros-McCarthy and I am writing to ask you to implement a pathway for permitting ropeless fishing in MA waters.

Ted Zhu and I started LobsterLift based out of Lowell, MA. We are developing a low cost ropeless device aimed at giving inshore fishers the ability to keep fishing without the worry of having their gear become a cause for the death of a North Atlantic right whale, a species severely wounded.

LobsterLift started at an international oceanic environmental prototype competition in Malaysia, where we first learned about the issue from a professor who also works as a Maine fisherman. He told us about the ongoing protests between the environmental groups and fishers due to the regulations imposed on the fisheries in order to help conserve the North Atlantic right whale population, and other at-risk marine life. We thought we could help, and we were excited to take on the challenge. The concept was born at Conservation X Labs' challenge, and from there we worked on the design, and applied for grants to allow us to leave our full time jobs for the ability to work on something truly inspiring for us. Up until 6 months ago, we worked on evenings, and weekends to bring our concepts closer towards something which could be tested by fishermen, where we could get their valuable feedback. We were then awarded the highly competitive NOAA Bycatch Reduction Engineering Program (BREP) grant in 2020. Things started to move much more quickly, and we have since taken our concept and brought it out into the ocean with an inshore Gloucester, MA fisherman to fish with. Seeing the gear fall off the side of the boat, and return for it a few days later to see it at the surface was an experience I will never forget - right next to the first time I saw a whale in person on my first whale watch.

It takes a lot to change a century old method fishing method, and most fisherman aren't interested in taking part in the change, but today we are asking you to run with us on the journey of switching to ropeless gear. Creating a system to allow fishers to fish with ropeless gear isn't easy, but is necessary if we are going to act fast to reduce the destruction that we have continued to play a major role in with the population of the North Atlantic right whale.

The LobsterLift is designed as a truly ropeless system: it does not use a stored away endline, but instead inflates a balloon to create enough buoyancy to raise the trap from the ocean floor up to the surface. By

designing it this way, we remove a great deal of complexity for the fisher, who would otherwise have to carefully repack or recoil a rope before sending the trap back overboard. You can set a timer for deployment and drop it off the boat--it's as simple as that. Alternatively, you can also have the system fitted with an acoustics system which would allow you to retrieve it on demand. We are working with many acoustics manufacturers, and are just about finished integrating the first one into the LobsterLift.

LobsterLift has been deployed and retrieved over 100 times, and that number will continue to grow exponentially over the coming year as we continue testing. We have had the opportunity to test our device in waters off of Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Georgia . We have proven its reliability at its current phase with a 100% retrieval rate of success. Our system is designed from the start to be low cost: we understand that one of the challenges posed on using pop-up gear is the price tag, and we bear that in mind to make sure we can work tirelessly to help keep fishers on the water while solving the age-old problem of marine entanglements. As we get closer to manufacturing this system at a larger scale, our units will be available for ~\$200 (timer version) to \$400 (acoustic version) each and can be easily fitted to trawls, reducing the overall cost per trap to the fisher.

Director McKiernan, you have the authority to issue permits on an as-needed basis, we request that the Division reconsider its decisions and develop a pathway for permitting ropeless gear in MA waters during these upcoming rule makings. We are working hard to help save a species while keeping fishers on the water. Please take this opportunity to work towards a solution to save the North Atlantic right whales, not against it.

We look forward to your reply, and hope to speak more with you in this matter directly.

Thank you for your time,  
Cormac Hondros-McCarthy & LobsterLift Team

Director McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street  
Suite 400, Boston  
MA 02114

December 18, 2020

Director McKiernan,

We are writing to you today to express our deep concerns for the impending extinction of the Massachusetts state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale, which could become unavoidable unless direct action is taken to reduce the risk of entanglement. We, as elected officials, care about the safety and wellbeing of critically endangered North Atlantic right whales and we do our best to make sure all environmental matters, even global issues, are considered locally.

From 2017-2019, 31 right whales have died from avoidable causes, reducing the population to just 366. Right whales are dying at extreme rates due to entanglements: 85 percent of right whales have been entangled at least once in their lifetime, more than half of them have been entangled twice or more. Vertical fishing lines pose a highly lethal threat to the North Atlantic right whale population as they travel over one million miles of vertical lines along the East Coast, including our state waters.

The current draft regulations extend seasonal closures to all Massachusetts state waters from February 1 to April 30. While closures are helpful in the conservation realm, this measure fails to protect right whales that are known to be present off the coast of Massachusetts during summer and fall months and cannot provide protection for right whales for a majority of the year. We recommend the Division include an implementation to fast-track permitting for ropeless technology usage which includes changing existing regulations that require a vertical line and buoy in order to harvest lobster.

Ropeless gear can prevent marine entanglements while reducing the impacts to those who make a living on the water. As the state must develop detailed steps to minimize and mitigate impacts all activities that are impacting the endangered species, ropeless gear needs to be considered by the Division. Ropeless gear works, and has a success rate of 98.4 percent, and has also been used around the world in different fisheries. Ropeless gear devices are currently being used in tests along the East Coast and in Massachusetts waters.

We stand at a critical moment where the North Atlantic right whale could become extinct in our lifetimes. The proposed draft regulations rely on the same outdated fishing technology that has been used for over a century. Now, we have the technology and opportunity to save right whales. We implore you to implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save our iconic state marine mammal.

Thank you.

*Councilor Anissa Essaibi-George  
Boston*

*Selectman Dylan Clark  
Barre*

*Selectboard Chair Bob Armstrong  
Conway*

*City Councilor At-Large Julie Flowers  
Beverly*

*City Councilor Alicia Bowman  
Newton*

*City Councillor Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler  
CAMBRIDGE*

*City Councilor Stephanie Martins  
Everett*

*Select Board Member Mark Sandeen  
Lexington*

*Select Board Member Michael Bettencourt  
Winchester*

*City Councilor Margareth Shepard  
Framingham*

**From:** [Jim O'Connell](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** NARW  
**Date:** Sunday, December 20, 2020 1:19:29 AM

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<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2008/10/10/E8-24177/endangered-fish-and-wildlife-final-rule-to-implement-speed-restrictions-to-reduce-the-threat-of-ship>

<http://fisherynation.com/most-likely-carnival-cruise-lines-is-responsible-for-18-right-whale-deaths-in-the-past-3-year-at-which-rate-they-would-soon-be-extinct>

I attend a zoom meeting with the NEAQ presenting a scientist who studied the impact speed that could kill a NARW, who proclaimed no speed is safe. To reroute the shipping lane is the best thing to do. So where have you been hiding this guy? Honestly you must give up attacking the biggest and most responsible fishery in the USA. You guys raced up there with all those fancy inventions and with the spotting planes recorded whale sightings were cruise ships would have been last year if Covid hadn't popped up. Now it should be obvious that I am right. 18+ whales suddenly found floating in what is now called the Shediac Valley. In my opinion they should have rerouted that cruise lane to the east of the Magdalen Islands like that expert of yours suggested at the NEAQ ship strike public zoom meeting. Pat Keliher the Chairman of the DMR who acknowledged that I sent a lot of my data to him said "Jim is right". It's on the tape included here. He also said all you have to do is look north to find where all the deaths have been occurring. Canada doesn't care, "they have other priorities".

Yes. That priority they were talking about was to pay for a multi million dollar brand new unused 2nd cruise ship berthing pier. They needed to keep those cruise ships on time. A dead whale was just another dead squirrel beside the road. Besides you could buy a stuffed whale made in China at a souvenir shop on PEI.

If you can't open it go to MPBN MAINE CALLING WITH JENNIFER ROOKS.  
archived Jan 8 2020. Time @ 24:24.

[https://share.icloud.com/photos/0uJpforkkoYmFHRyOkNWXMOxg#Bar\\_Harbor](https://share.icloud.com/photos/0uJpforkkoYmFHRyOkNWXMOxg#Bar_Harbor)

You guys have got to look at this whole picture again on the birthrate and keep in mind the whales were increasing dramatically despite always under the loss of 3.2 whales accidentally taken per year. Since 1980.

There were 150 new juveniles to take care of and teach them

the ropes. Of course there was an uptick in entanglements and ship strikes too. The record year of 9 serious entanglements was set during the largest increase in the population since what? 1700's? Actually one year before the 39 calf year in 2010.

So that is not slowing them down. Whales can get out of being entangled. 87 % show proof of that.

You guys are causing millions of dollars of grief and losing the public's confidence the longer you keep covering for cruise ships and ship strikes in general. The take reduction number should be raised to 3.2 . 7 calves two years ago. 10 born this year. No entanglements this year! But, 2 ship strikes south of the cape. Looks like 12 + could be the number next year.

Not counting the surprise surge Canadian heavy crab gear your data states 5 lobster

entanglement COD in the last 20 years. That is  $\frac{1}{4}$  whale per year. The cruise ships between 2017 and 2019 averaged 6 per year. Why are you going after lobstermen?  
Jim O'Connell  
207 288 4721

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Carrie Thomas](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 8:30:04 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Director Daniel McKiernan,

Massachusetts can be a leader in the fight to save the North Atlantic right whale.

With less than 400 individuals remaining, the North Atlantic right whale is one of the most critically endangered marine animals in the world. Entanglement in fishing gear and collisions with ships are pushing the species towards extinction. We must take strong action today before it's too late to save them.

North Atlantic right whales migrating through the waters of the East Coast must navigate a maze of deadly vertical rope. Ropeless fishing gear can be the solution that we need to save right whales and keep fishermen on the water.

A viable pathway for permitting ropeless fishing gear should be included in the new proposed regulations in order to fully address the issue of entanglement. Removing vertical buoy rope from the water and providing a permitting structure for fishermen to legally utilize 21st century technology is the only long-term solution to reduce the entanglement risk to right whales while ensuring a sustainable future for Massachusetts fishing communities.

cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [John Farrell](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Lobster Regulations  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:16:32 PM

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To: Director Daniel McKiernan

From: John Farrell

Date: December 18, 2020

Re: Proposed Lobster Fishing Regulations

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As a full time lobster fisherman in the state of Massachusetts I am forwarding concerns regarding the proposed regulations and whale entanglements. It has been my experience that no line entanglements or damage to whales / turtle with current fishing methods being employed in state and federal waters where i fish. I am aware of an entanglement in Cape Cod Bay in 2016 as well as the current closure during the months of Feb through March. While many attribute vertical lines as the main culprit of creating an environment detrimental to the North Atlantic Right Whale it is a shift northward of their primary source of forage and ship strikes.

The changes proposed will create undue hardship not only on fishermen but many ancillary business that participate directly and indirectly in the lobster industry. History shows a willingness on the part of fishermen to adjust current gear, breakaway links, lower breaking tension of rope, and color identified lines to indicate where each fish. To take away or limit a person's ability to fish for a living is going too far. Furthermore it is by no coincidence that in this time of COVID and no cruise ship traffic that no reports of ship strikes of whales has been filed. We don't have the financial resources to lobby as those large conglomerates or shipping lines do but we operate in no less of an important participant in ocean and marine life.

As a member of the fishing community I trust that the challenges faced by fishermen, as well as those that operate in this industry, we are caretakers of the resource and the environment in which they live. It is my hope that an ITP can be obtained and fishing can continue as we are today.

Respectfully,  
John Farrell

Sent from my iPhone

Rocky Neck Lobster Co I Inc  
12 Wiley St  
Gloucester, Ma 01930  
617-803-5799

December 18, 2020

Dear Director McKiernan,

I am a full-time commercial lobsterman out of Gloucester, Ma. I have been lobstering since I was 8 years old and chose this profession after receiving my education at Maine Maritime. I spent the first part of my career shipping out in winters in order to lobster full time the other portion of the year. After 2 years of this, I began lobstering year-round and have been lobstering full time for the last 12+ years. My wife Tess and I have built a life from me lobstering and she now owns her own shoreside lobster and bait facility.

I am writing to you to express my opposition for the proposed closure of Ma state waters to lobster traps and gillnets from Feb 1- April 30<sup>th</sup>. I understand the DMF is making an effort by developing a Habitat Conservation Plan in order to obtain an ITP from NOAA and this closure will aid in the possibility of NOAA granting this ITP. I do not however agree that this closure will be in anyway effective in saving a right whale and is simply another step closer to crippling a sustainable fishery that has been practicing conservation measures for decades.

Commercial Lobstering in MA is a huge part of many of the seaside communities in the Commonwealth. It is a large economic player not only for the fishermen, their families and their crew but for the fish companies, the bait dealers, the marina owners, the restaurants and more. This is an industry we cannot afford to lose or damage without further proof that these new whale regulations are necessary, and their results will outweigh the damage being done to thousands of Ma residents who rely on commercial fishing to feed their families and pay their mortgages. The DMF has waited to the absolute last second to spring this possible closure on this fishery and it is simply unfair to expect us fishermen to react in such a short amount of time. This year has been hard on everyone with Covid and unstable lobster prices all last Feb-June. The average lobstermen can only take so many obstacles before their profession is no longer going to be sustainable. How can you ask them to no longer fish for 3 months of the year which is a time of year there is not data proving right whales aggregate north of Cape Cod Bay. Why are recreational lobster license holders allowed to fish single pots with 10 vertical lines for a pastime in the summer? We are hardworking fishermen who need this job to keep supporting our families and this closure would be the first blow to slowly breaking down and significantly damaging an industry. I think more time and serious thought need to be put into a decision that will have an effect on so many industry participants including myself.

Thank you for your time.

Best,

Ryan Browne  
F/V Moon Dancer

**From:** [Kyle Borges](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Response to Dec 8 & 9, 2020 public hearing  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:37:42 PM

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Good Afternoon:

I would like to share my thoughts about this proposal.

It seems to be a drastic measure to initiate this proposal for a whale that MAY come through this area. There are NO FACTS to back up this closure. It was stated in your webinar. To have a closure of three months will hurt many lobster businesses. Most of the small lobster businesses are barely surviving! Between high expenses and the low selling price. NOT LOBSTERING FOR THREE MONTHS WILL MAKE MANY FAMILIES STRUGGLE!!! We are hard working people who have real families we need to support. The endangered species you should be worried about helping is the Lobstermen/Fisherman. They provide food for the world and risk their lives doing it !

Regards  
Kyle Borges  
Lobsterman



*advocacy*

December 18, 2020

Daniel McKiernan, Director  
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA 02114  
marine.fish@mass.gov

Dear Director McKiernan,

The Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals submits these comments in response to your request for comments on proposed amendments to Division of Marine Fisheries regulations at 322 CMR 6.00, 7.00, and 12.00. The MSPCA is a national and international leader in animal protection and veterinary medicine. Founded in 1868, we are the second-oldest humane society in the United States. The MSPCA comprises our Animal Care and Adoption Centers, our Advocacy Department, and our Law Enforcement Department. Angell Animal Medical Center is our nonprofit veterinary hospital.

Massachusetts must act to protect the right whale from extinction. Right whales currently number less than 400 individuals and they continue to die in unsustainable numbers. The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements; no adult or juvenile right whale has been known to have died of natural causes in roughly the past 15 years. Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. Declines in female right whale numbers are especially concerning, as their survival is crucial to that of the young. Females gestate for a year, and their young nurse for one to two years and stay with their mothers for roughly a decade.

We support the proposed regulatory changes, with the exception of the seasonal closure length of the proposed area, which we suggest be longer: beginning January 1 and extending through at least May 15, rather than beginning February 1 and automatically re-opening on April 30. Right whales frequent Massachusetts waters year-round, with the most found in Cape Cod Bay in the late winter and spring. In recent years Massachusetts has had to extend closure times, including into the month of May.

The right whale is the official state marine mammal of Massachusetts. After having nearly hunted the animal to extinction, and then having brought it back from the brink (it is estimated that there may have been fewer than 100 individuals in 1935), we must not relent in the fight to protect the right whale. Before it is too late, and before the Commonwealth's own official state marine mammal is driven to extinction, we must pass regulatory changes to ensure the survival of this species.

Thank you for taking strong actions to protect this critically endangered animal, and thank you for your consideration of our input and perspective.

Sincerely,

Kara Holmquist  
Director of Advocacy

**From:** [Linda Knowles](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Right Whales  
**Date:** Saturday, December 19, 2020 12:19:41 AM

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The proposed regulations to protect Right Whales that migrate off our shores are insufficient and do not completely address the issue of entanglements, the leading cause of right whale deaths. 85% of right whales have been [entangled at least once](#) in their lives, and over half of the population has been entangled more than once.

We need to get rope out of the water—and fast. Ropeless fishing gear can help solve the problem of right whale entanglements, while helping the fishing industry thrive. A pathway towards advancing ropeless gear permitting is currently not being considered by DMF in its draft regulations.

**The right whale population is dwindling: scientists estimate that there are only 366 left. Now is the time to act. DMF - we need greater measures in order to save right whales from extinction.**

**Please save these majestic creatures from entanglement and death.**

**Thank you**

**Linda Knowles**

**From:** [Tony Tobia](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Ropeless Fishing  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:59:37 PM

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*Director Dan Kierman,*

*Please add my name to the many other names of those who support the transition to ropeless fishing through the use of robust acoustic release technology. Thank you.*

*Sincerely,*

*Tony Tobia*

**From:** [Janet Barad](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 11:19:32 PM

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The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Janet Barad  
, 11215-5169

**From:** [Phyllis Corcacas](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 11:19:24 PM

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Thank you.

Phyllis Corcacas  
New York, NY 10040

**From:** [Peter Kahigian](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 11:19:16 PM

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Thank you.

Peter Kahigian  
Haverhill, MA 01831

**From:** [Juli Shields](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 11:19:08 PM

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Thank you.

Juli Shields  
Conklin, NY 13748

**From:** [tom calderone](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 11:18:59 PM

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Thank you.

tom calderone  
Levittown, NY 11756

**From:** [Laurie Flinn](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 11:18:53 PM

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Thank you.

Laurie Flinn  
Haverhill, MA 01830

**From:** [Dean Onessimo](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 10:21:40 PM

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Thank you.

Dean Onessimo  
West Palm Beach, FL 33418

**From:** [Ed Frechette](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 10:21:30 PM

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Thank you.

Ed Frechette  
Dorchester Center, MA 02124

**From:** [Flo Fender](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 10:21:19 PM

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Thank you.

Flo Fender  
Pine Valley, NY 14872

**From:** [karen krause](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 10:21:13 PM

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Thank you.

karen krause  
Albany, NY 12205

**From:** [Greg Strauss](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 10:21:01 PM

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Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Greg Strauss  
North Miami Beach, FL 33162

**From:** [Charles Bolick](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 10:20:59 PM

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Thank you.

Charles Bolick  
Pompano Beach, FL 33069

**From:** [Robert Dowling](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 10:20:50 PM

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Thank you.

Robert Dowling  
Staten Island, NY 10308

**From:** [Kathleen Lentz](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 10:20:44 PM

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I am concerned about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

As you know, the primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. These ropes should be eliminated--NOW - if there is to be any possibility that this whale will become extinct. DO THE RIGHT THING by whales, and by our environment. We must take care of our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale. MASSACHUSETTS IS OFTEN IN THE LEAD ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES -- LETS KEEP THAT GOING.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

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Thank you.

Kathleen Lentz  
Arlington, MA 02476

**From:** [Douglas Klein](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 10:20:37 PM

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Thank you.

Douglas Klein  
Saint Petersburg, FL 33703

**From:** [Ward Davis](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 10:20:28 PM

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Thank you.

Ward Davis  
Belle Isle, FL 32812

**From:** [Gudrun Dennis](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 10:20:24 PM

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Thank you.

Gudrun Dennis  
, 32653-1950

**From:** [Judy Oates](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 10:20:16 PM

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Thank you.

Judy Oates  
Great Barrington, MA 01230

**From:** [Maureen Burke](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 10:20:11 PM

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Thank you.

Maureen Burke  
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418

**From:** [Mary Boniello](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 10:20:03 PM

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Thank you.

Mary Boniello  
Yonkers, NY 10701

**From:** [Elizabeth Clemmey](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 10:19:52 PM

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I cannot continue to attend these hearings, write these correspondence, and advocate regularly with the powers that be with the absolute lack of attention to these magnificent creatures. Ropeless gear and better location systems need to be universally used to protect the North Atlantic right whales. These actions have been proposed for decades. How many creatures do we let go before it's too many. How many ecosystems do we destroy before it's too many. When do we understand protecting wildlife and wild places protects us. The destruction of wildlife and wild places is our own destruction. Do what's right. Not what's easy. Take action that will live on forever. It's beyond time. Thank you.

Elizabeth Clemmey  
Mansfield, MA 02048

**From:** [Greg Gazzana](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 10:19:49 PM

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Thank you.

Greg Gazzana  
Brooksville, FL 34602

**From:** [D.H](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 10:19:41 PM

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Thank you.

D H  
Fort Pierce, FL 34945

**From:** [Whitney Leonard](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 10:19:34 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales. As a native of Massachusetts and someone who has personally studied issues relating to right whale entanglements, this issue is of great concern and interest to me.

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Thank you.

Whitney Leonard  
Anchorage, AK 99508

**From:** [Bonita Knapp](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 10:19:26 PM

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Bonita Knapp  
Naples, FL 34102

**From:** [Laurie Puca](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 10:19:19 PM

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Thank you.

Laurie Puca  
New City, NY 10956

**From:** [Dessaline Moore](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 10:19:14 PM

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Dessaline Moore  
Satsuma, FL 32189

**From:** [Al Sarnacki](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 10:19:06 PM

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Al Sarnacki  
Frankfort, NY 13340

**From:** [Debi Combs](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 10:18:56 PM

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Debi Combs  
Decatur, GA 30033

**From:** [Linda Janota](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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Linda Janota  
Englewood, FL 34223

**From:** [Cary Appenzeller](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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Cary Appenzeller  
Brooklyn, NY 11215

**From:** [Brigid Vele](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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Brigid Vele  
, 11772-6212

**From:** [Belinda Collins](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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Belinda Collins  
Largo, FL 33770

**From:** [Cassie Craine](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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Cassie Craine  
Panama City Beach, FL 32407

**From:** [David Erickson](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 10:18:17 PM

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David Erickson  
Tucker, GA 30084

**From:** [Eric Naji](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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Eric Naji  
Tomball, TX 77377

**From:** [Sondra Catarraso](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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Sondra Catarraso  
Elmhurst, NY 11373

**From:** [Eric Naji](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
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Eric Naji  
Marietta, GA 30060

**From:** [Juanita Puntasecca](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 10:17:46 PM

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Juanita Puntasecca  
Lilburn, GA 30047

**From:** [Peter Ajemian](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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Peter Ajemian  
Bridgewater, MA 02324

**From:** [Gail Richardson](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 10:17:31 PM

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Thank you.

Gail Richardson  
Stone Mountain, GA 30083

**From:** [Don B. Meriwether](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 10:17:27 PM

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Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

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Don B. Meriwether  
Atlanta, GA 30324

**From:** [Amy Green](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 7:47:58 PM

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Thank you.

Amy Green  
Saint Augustine, FL 32080

**From:** [Pamela Joan Olsen](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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Thank you.

Do it today before it is too late.

Pamela Joan Olsen  
Southampton, NY 11968

**From:** [Lisa Mazzola](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 7:47:44 PM

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Thank you.

Lisa Mazzola  
, 33612-5013

**From:** [Jim Loveland](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 7:47:35 PM

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Jim Loveland  
, 33707-3327

**From:** [Suzan Ward](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 7:47:30 PM

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Suzan Ward  
Clayton, GA 30525

**From:** [Paula Grande](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 7:47:21 PM

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Paula Grande  
New York, NY 10003

**From:** [Erica Minglis](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 7:47:18 PM

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Erica Minglis  
Woodstock, NY 12498

**From:** [Erica Minglis](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 7:47:11 PM

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**From:** [Erica Minglis](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 7:47:03 PM

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**From:** [Erica Minglis](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 7:46:54 PM

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**From:** [Erica Minglis](#)  
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**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
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**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 7:46:20 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Erica Minglis  
Woodstock, NY 12498

**From:** [Erica Minglis](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 7:46:11 PM

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**From:** [Georgeta Burca](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
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Georgeta Burca  
Kennesaw, GA 30144

**From:** [Robin Vincent](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 7:45:57 PM

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Thank you.

Robin Vincent  
Mcdonough, GA 30252

**From:** [Mark Aziz](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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Mark Aziz  
Sarasota, FL 34232

**From:** [Lydia Peters](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 7:45:38 PM

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This should be a non-partisan issue. North Atlantic right whales need to be protected, and I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to these whales.

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Thank you.

Lydia Peters  
Cave Spring, GA 30124

**From:** [Cindy Stein](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 7:45:31 PM

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Thank you.

Cindy Stein  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

**From:** [Gwendolyn pelusi](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 7:45:27 PM

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Gwendolyn pelusi  
Pleasantville, NY 10570

**From:** [Melinda Henderson](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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Melinda Henderson  
Naples, FL 34112

**From:** [Mark Grzegorzewski](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 7:45:09 PM

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Mark Grzegorzewski  
St Petersburg, FL 33702

**From:** [Flavio Cardoso](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 7:45:01 PM

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Flavio Cardoso  
Miami, FL 33132

**From:** [Wendy Wish](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 7:44:55 PM

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Wendy Wish  
Orlando, FL 32806

**From:** [James Whitelock](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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James Whitelock  
Miami, FL 33162

**From:** [Nelson Pena](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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Nelson Pena  
, 33033-7344

**From:** [Alex Stavis](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 7:44:32 PM

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Alex Stavis  
New York, NY 10128

**From:** [Nathan Wilson](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
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Thank you,

Nate Wilson

Nathan Wilson  
Dedham, MA 02026

**From:** [Victoria Paterson](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 7:44:15 PM

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Thank you.

Victoria Paterson  
San Francisco, CA 94114

**From:** [Barb Morrison](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 7:44:11 PM

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Barb Morrison  
Clearwater, FL 33764

**From:** [Michelle Darbro](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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Thank you.

Michelle Darbro  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312

**From:** [Gertrude Battaly](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 7:43:58 PM

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Gertrude Battaly  
White Plains, NY 10603

**From:** [Judy Lindley](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 7:43:52 PM

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Judy Lindley  
Lake Worth, FL 33467

**From:** [Jane White](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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Jane White  
Melbourne, FL 32935

**From:** [Barbara Charles](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 7:43:41 PM

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Barbara Charles  
New York, NY 10019

**From:** [Leonor Molina](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 6:05:23 PM

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Leonor Molina  
Severna Park, MD 21146

**From:** [j.Doe](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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j Doe  
New York, NY 10013

**From:** [Margo Roy](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 6:05:04 PM

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Margo Roy  
Pensacola, FL 32514

**From:** [Michelle Collar](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 6:05:01 PM

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Thank you for your time and consideration,

Best regards,

Michelle Collar  
North Attleboro, MA 02760

**From:** [Anna Petronik](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 6:04:52 PM

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Anna Petronik  
Miami Beach, FL 33140

**From:** [Julie Miro](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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Julie Miro  
Miami, FL 33137

**From:** [S. Jordan](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 6:04:37 PM

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S. Jordan  
Deerfield Bch, FL 33441

**From:** [Lawrence Wallen](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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Lawrence Wallen  
Hinesville, GA 31313

**From:** [Lisa Mazzola](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 6:04:24 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Lisa Mazzola  
, 33612-5013

**From:** [Pablo Bobe](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:56:08 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Pablo Bobe  
New York, NY 10130

**From:** [Anca Vlasopolos](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:42:20 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed draft regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales. We must do all we can to protect these animals WHILE THERE'S TIME! Since highly successful ropeless gear exists and is being used by other countries, must we be once more behind others in wildlife protection? It's not as if protecting the whales puts an end to fisheries, as so many willfully ignorant people claim.

The primary causes of death for right whales are ship strikes and entanglements: no right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled twice or more. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining. Right whales could be extinct within our lifetime.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Please take steps to be on the right side of history!  
Thank you.

Anca Vlasopolos  
Centerville, MA 02632

**From:** [Andra Heide](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:35:47 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Andra Heide  
Pace, FL 32571

**From:** [Wendy Weldon](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:35:39 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Wendy Weldon  
Delray Beach, FL 33484

**From:** [Deb Stringham](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:35:29 PM

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Deb Stringham  
Sharon, MA 02067

**From:** [Andra Heide](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:35:20 PM

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Thank you.

Andra Heide  
Pace, FL 32571

**From:** [cecilia nevel](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:35:18 PM

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Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

cecilia nevel  
Clearwater, FL 33755

**From:** [Katherine Corcoran Lytle](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:28:11 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed draft regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are ship strikes and entanglements: no right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million miles of vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

More than 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled twice or more. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining. Right whales could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Katherine Corcoran Lytle  
Whitman, MA 02382

**From:** [Lawrence Brown](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:28:11 PM

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I am concerned about the proposed draft regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Lawrence Brown  
Burlington, MA 01803

**From:** [Joseph Beebe](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:28:10 PM

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Thank you.

Joseph Beebe  
Cambridge, MA 02139

**From:** [Sally Brotman](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:28:10 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed draft regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

I live in Truro and have been witnessing the steady decline of the right whale population my whole life. Between entanglements, ship strikes, underwater noise pollution, shifting food sources because of global climate change, I am dismayed by the "too little too late" approach to the decline of this species. I dread the thought that I will be a witness to the extinction of the right whale. I speak for my whole family and all the friends who enjoy whale watching and care about the health of the ocean off our coast.

As others will state in their message to you, the primary causes of death for right whales are ship strikes and entanglements: no right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million miles of vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled twice or more. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining. Right whales could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Sally Brotman  
Truro, MA 02666

**From:** [Rob Morris](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:28:09 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed draft regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised to allow for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles. Using Ropeless technology along with weak rope would be the best of both solutions.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Rob Morris  
West Wareham, MA 02576

**From:** [Melanie Lary](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:28:00 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed draft regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

Ropeless fishing gear can help solve the problem of right whale entanglements, while helping the fishing industry thrive, and a way to advance the permitting for it should be considered in the proposed regulations.

The primary causes of death for right whales are ship strikes and entanglements: no right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million miles of vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled twice or more. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining. Right whales could be extinct within our lifetime.

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Thank you.

Melanie Lary  
Watertown, MA 02472

**From:** [Sharinne Lercara](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:27:59 PM

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Thank you.

Sharinne Lercara  
Flushing, NY 11355

**From:** [Jean Rosenberg](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:27:59 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed draft regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

Ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale. Ship strikes and entanglements are the primary causes of death for right whales and no right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast, including in our state waters has over one million miles of vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled twice or more. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining. Right whales could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. In order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts this must be revised entirely.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water.

Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Jean Rosenberg

Jean Rosenberg  
Arlington, MA 02474

**From:** [Ms. Maria Celia Hernandez](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:27:20 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To: The Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

Sub: Massachusetts; Save the Right Whales

With sincere respects,  
Lady and or Gentleman,

I am writing this message to you today, To express my concern about the proposed draft regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

Today more than in the past ,The primary causes of death for right whales are ship strikes and entanglements: No right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years.

The East Coast has over one million miles of vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled twice or more. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining. Right whales could be extinct within our lifetime.

Why should this be let happen?

As we have laws for the people to follow ; The something should be created stronger for those who weather passing the ocean in any place to trade , or other action should be accountable for leaving those parts they use for fishing.

I believe also that everyone who uses the ocean in any form should go to a class to see and hear what they create when they are not acting responsible in the ; weather work related fishing, or traveling around the ocean .No matter how the go in to the ocean for fun or business .

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles and other ocean species .In the ocean and or around the borders of the ocean.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales.

Lady ,Gentleman; Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water.

Please do create implementing measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

These oceanic animals and others should be protected; For the sake of the new generations who should have the chance to see them and also because those giant Whales no matter their specie they are the most important access to clean the ocean water as each fish and other species do too.

Please remember we are the ones who should Protect all that was given to us freely from Nature. The greatest Source of the universe for the sake and benefit of every specie on earth, earth and air.

Thank you for your time effort and responsibility to protect yours and our ocean and those special creature that need our help to keep living and swimming in this water ocean world.

Which I call it ;

The Garden of special and unique creatures of the ocean.

From: Self Advocate for many Organizations an specially for the [oceana.org](http://oceana.org), [ocean conservancy.org](http://oceanconservancy.org), [amsc.org.au](http://amsc.org.au)  
For the sake Of saving, The Oceanic Most Precious Creatures.

The earth depends of the ocean water, Humans depend of the the second source of food, and everyone should protect the four most important element and sources; Air, Water, Lands, Forests, and the Ocean. They all support and serve all species on earth.

Ms. Maria Celia Hernandez  
Boston, MA 02128

**From:** [siobhan robinson](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:27:20 PM

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PLEASE SAVE THESE BEAUTIFUL CREATURES!

siobhan robinson  
Oakland, CA 94612

**From:** [Christine Lichtenfels](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:27:18 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed draft regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

Please don't disregard my concerns and comments because of my zip code. I grew up in RI, have relatives in MA, have all sorts of formative memories made in MA from learning to ski on Mt. Tom, working at Camp Jabberwocky on MV, racing on the Charles multiple times, running the Boston Marathon, whale watching on the Cape, etc, and have recently visited MA, including the Cape. New England is forever a part of who I am and its ocean resources are a big part of that.

The primary causes of death for right whales are ship strikes and entanglements: no right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million miles of vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled twice or more. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining. Right whales could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Christine Lichtenfels  
Lander, WY 82520

**From:** [Nancy Thomas](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:27:17 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

It is urgent that we do everything in our power to save right whales from extinction! Once they are gone future generations will never know the majesty of these great mammals.

I have great concern about the proposed draft regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are ship strikes and entanglements: no right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled twice or more. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining. Right whales could be extinct within our lifetime.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Nancy Thomas  
Amesbury, MA 01913

**From:** [Christine Farrugia](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:27:17 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Christine Farrugia  
Kissimmee, FL 34759

**From:** [Joel Cohen](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:27:16 PM

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I am writing to let you know I can no longer stomach watching whale after whale show up entangled in fishing gear. I have given up eating all seafood as I do not want to contribute to these deaths. I understand ship strikes are also a major contributing factor however that seems like it is being mitigated by shipping lanes which will obviously need to be monitored and altered as the climate changes. However after seeing the population plummet to 356 individuals and after seeing the heart wrenching images of entangled whales or even sea turtles, I can no longer eat any seafood until changes are made to make it safe for all marine animals.

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed draft regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are ship strikes and entanglements: no right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million miles of vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled twice or more. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining. Right whales could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Joel Cohen  
Indialantic, FL 32903

**From:** [Michael Brandes](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:27:16 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Michael Brandes  
Merrick, NY 11566

**From:** [Joseph Collins](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:27:16 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed draft regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

As a longtime resident here on Horseneck Beach (since 1956) I have gone on whale watches several times. You must include ropeless gear pilot programs in these regulations so we won't lose these whales.

Thank you.

Joseph Collins  
Westport Point, MA 02791

**From:** [Margaret Patti](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:27:16 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed draft regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

This should be a no brainer as Right Whales deserve better. Need to put sanctions on the fishing industry to stop entanglements.....!!!!!! Need ropeless gear NOW.

Thank you.

Margaret Patti  
Burlington, MA 01803

**From:** [Jeffrey Bains](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:27:16 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

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Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

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Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Jeffrey Bains  
The Villages, FL 32159

**From:** [Sara Crawford](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:27:15 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed draft regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales. The DMF draft must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

I join with the Pew Charitable Trusts and the growing number of scientists, engineers, fishermen, and fishery managers in supporting the development of ropeless fishing systems, which represent a promising solution for the pressing problem affecting the North Atlantic right whale: entanglement in fishing gear. With collaboration and commitment from fishermen and decision-makers, these endangered whales and fishing cultures in the U.S. and Canada, can thrive far into the future. Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate.

Draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles. There are only 366 of these precious animals left!

Thank you,

Sara Crawford  
Millbury, MA 01527

**From:** [Ulysses Lateiner](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:27:13 PM

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I would like to express my concern about the proposed draft regulations created to reduce entanglement risks for North Atlantic Right Whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are ship strikes and entanglements: no right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million miles of vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled twice or more. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining. Right whales could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. As matters stand, this unique and majestic species is on the path to imminent extinction. DMF must either commit to implementing ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale, or declare plainly that it has no plan to save this iconic species-- our own state's marine mammal, no less-- from extinction.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Ulysses Lateiner  
, 02144-1911

**From:** [Harriet Cohen](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:27:13 PM

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This message is in regard to the proposed regulations that address reduce entanglement risks to right whales.

A primary cause of death of the right whales is rope entanglements. Across the east coast, there are over 1M miles of vertical lines threatening the right whales. These rope lines are a serious risk to the right whale population. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Breakable rope is a good start, but those lines still pose a threat to the right whale calves. Please implement regulations requiring ropeless fishing gear. It is available and widely used around the world. It is the only long term solution to saving the right whales.

We don't want to lose these magnificent animals.

Thank you.  
Harriet Cohen

Harriet Cohen  
Lexington, MA 02421

**From:** [Leda Zimmerman](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:27:13 PM

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I am greatly concerned by the plight of the North American right whale, whose numbers continue to plummet. After attending NOAA meetings describing entanglement and boat strike issues, and hearing promises from fishery regulators, I believe that the most urgent actions and most stringent regulations are necessary to prevent the extinction of this species.

As you know, no right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million miles of vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled twice or more. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining. Right whales could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Leda Zimmerman  
Lexington, MA 02420

**From:** [Paul Grohne](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:27:12 PM

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I'm writing because I care about right whales, whose population has been decimated and continues to alarmingly decline: their entire population is only a dwindling estimated 366 individuals.

One problem is the use of fishing gear that causes the whales to be entangled and trapped. The current draft regulations considering the use of 1700-lb breakable rope is still a threat to right whale calves and juveniles. Consider passing regulations that require ROPELESS GEAR which can be a win-win solution: the whales don't die needlessly and fishers can be kept on the water: ropeless gear is used all over the world in Canada, Ireland, the West Coast, United Kingdom and Australia, why not use it here to save the right whale, our state mammal, from extinction.

Please, please, please, implement ropeless gear. Time's running out for the right whale. This is your chance to make the world a better place. Thank you.

Paul Grohne  
Dorchester, MA 02125

**From:** [Phillip Glenn](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:27:12 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello. I urge you to strengthen the regulations to protect right whales. That includes moving quickly toward ropeless fishing gear. This is a crisis in the water, and you have the opportunity to do something about it.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled twice or more. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining. Right whales could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Phillip Glenn  
Natick, MA 01760

**From:** [Margaret Rice Moir](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:27:12 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed draft regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

They simply do NOT go far enough. These giant beauties remind us about the miracle of creation as well as the natural wonders that remain in a fast changing world. We rely on these animals for the meaning of Life. They rely on us to Live.

The primary causes of death for right whales are ship strikes and entanglements: no right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

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THIS IS POSSIBLE. .

Thank you.

Margaret Rice Moir  
Brewster, MA 02631

**From:** [Quinn O'Connor](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:27:11 PM

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North Atlantic right whales cannot afford anymore inaction or insufficient regulations. Without ropeless gear technology, right whales will continue to get entangled and the lobster industry will suffer from fishery closures. Ropeless technology is being developed and utilized across the world successfully. So how, and why, would the DMF fail to include its use in draft regulations? There are only 366 right whales left. 366. If at this moment, we fail to take bold and necessary action in regulating fishing lines, our next generation will only see a right whale in a museum or textbook. If the DMF does not include ropeless technology in new draft regulations, then we will all be complicit in the decimation of a majestic species.

Quinn O'Connor  
Arlington, VA 22204

**From:** [Christine Farrugia](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:24:40 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

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Thank you.

Christine Farrugia  
Kissimmee, FL 34759

**From:** [Allister Layne](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:24:40 PM

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Thank you.

Allister Layne  
Conyers, GA 30094

**From:** [Eugene Brusin](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:24:39 PM

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Thank you.

Eugene Brusin  
Quincy, MA 02169

**From:** [gabrielle Granofsky](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:20:38 PM

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Thank you.

gabrielle Granofsky  
Brooksville, FL 34602

**From:** [Penny Gregorio](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:20:32 PM

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Thank you.

Penny Gregorio  
Albany, GA 31721

**From:** [chris burson](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:20:21 PM

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Thank you.

chris burson  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312

**From:** [Alvera Pritchard](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:20:13 PM

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Thank you.

Alvera Pritchard  
Miami Beach, FL 33139

**From:** [Priscilla Tenzar](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:20:11 PM

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Thank you.

Priscilla Tenzar  
Boylston, MA 01505

**From:** [Marco Flagg](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:20:01 PM

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During the virtual hearing on 12/8/2020, DMF staff commented that 'ropeless fishing' was not on the agenda because issues such as gear conflict avoidance yet had to be resolved. And a fisher commented that gear density in MA is much higher than in NSW Australia, where ropeless fishing both with GTR and acoustic triggers is routinely practiced.

In fact, high-density gear management will not at first be needed even in MA (or ME) because only few fishers are likely to transition to this technology at first. And experimentation by individual fishers in their commercial fishing practice is critical to adapt the technology to local conditions and widespread use. Adequate tools, including for virtual (GPS) gear marking do exist to support early adopters and support safe operation.

I wish to point out here that the South African octopus fishery is now following just such a strategy. The fishery was closed in 2019 due to whale entanglements. Fishers and government quickly came to an agreement to use ropeless technology with timed or acoustic releases. And the fishery has now opened again, so far with no entanglements.

See this article.

[https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A\\_\\_www.fishingindustrynewssa.com\\_2020\\_12\\_09\\_the-2Doctopus-2Dfishery-2Dhas-2Da-2Dgripping-2Dstory-2Dto-2Dtell\\_&d=DwIFaQ&c=IDF7oMaPKXpkYvev9V-fVahWL0QWnGCCAfCDz1Bns\\_w&r=Y1CBtQZE17Rj2MeXjOmTypaU2t5pniKda51CF15IQyg&m=dhmSMPGBLfdEPstx\\_iTh\\_gxSRikWM46zSuxhvka7fR8&s=ZcFO7xQH0aR-15QFoHxE8RXrE5fL0zKRNWS-PBCeYo&e=](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.fishingindustrynewssa.com_2020_12_09_the-2Doctopus-2Dfishery-2Dhas-2Da-2Dgripping-2Dstory-2Dto-2Dtell_&d=DwIFaQ&c=IDF7oMaPKXpkYvev9V-fVahWL0QWnGCCAfCDz1Bns_w&r=Y1CBtQZE17Rj2MeXjOmTypaU2t5pniKda51CF15IQyg&m=dhmSMPGBLfdEPstx_iTh_gxSRikWM46zSuxhvka7fR8&s=ZcFO7xQH0aR-15QFoHxE8RXrE5fL0zKRNWS-PBCeYo&e=)

As South Africa is the latest jurisdiction to demonstrate, ropeless technology is ready and commercially viable and is a very effective solution to prevent entanglements while preserving a fishery. Fishers and whale preservation would best be served if DMF allowed ropeless fishing under simple rules such as South Africa's now.

Best Regards,

Marco Flagg  
CEO, Desert Star Systems LLC

Marco Flagg  
Marina, CA 93933

**From:** [Christopher Lord](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:19:59 PM

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Thank you.

Christopher Lord  
Brentwood, NY 11717

**From:** [Christine Farrugia](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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Christine Farrugia  
Kissimmee, FL 34759

**From:** [Marilyn Britton](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:19:57 PM

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The harm our actions cause so many marine creatures is very troubling; especially the North Atlantic right whales. I am writing to express my grave concern about the proposed draft regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are ship strikes and entanglements: no right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years!! The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled twice or more. The population, which is estimated at a low 366, is rapidly declining. Right whales could be extinct within our lifetime. This would not only be bad for the whales, but for the whole marine environment of which they are an important part.

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Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale. NO more studying. Work with people who know how to do this.

Thank you.

Marilyn Britton  
Peterborough, NH 03458

**From:** [Mary Lanzarotta](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:19:57 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed draft regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

Proposing regulations to protect right whales that migrate off the MA coast is a step in the right direction.

However, these proposed regulations are insufficient and do not completely address the issue of entanglements, the leading cause of right whale deaths. Ropeless gear isn't rocket science -- we have the ability but lack the will. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Mary Lanzarotta

Mary Lanzarotta  
Hyde Park, MA 02136

**From:** [Summer Crabtree](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:19:55 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Summer Crabtree  
Jacksonville, FL 32216

**From:** [Lillian Edmondson](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:19:55 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed draft regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales. It is imperative for people to realize that, as humans, our lives are not worth more than those of other animals simply because we are humans.

The primary causes of death for right whales are ship strikes and entanglements: no right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled twice or more. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining. Right whales could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Lillian Edmondson  
Santa Maria, CA 93458

**From:** [Pierre Schlemel](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:19:52 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing to express my DEEP concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: NO adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one MILLION vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in Massachusetts state waters. These ropes pose a DIRECT risk to the state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least ONCE, and more than HALF of the population has been entangled at LEAST twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be EXTINCT within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations REQUIRE vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be REVISED entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must IMPLEMENT a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would STILL pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

ROPELESS gear has been used ALL over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to NO avail for the past twenty years, MULTIPLE companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF MUST consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the ONLY long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please IMPLEMENT measures that INCORPORATE ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Pierre Schlemel  
Old Bethpage, NY 11804

**From:** [Chey Richmond](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:19:49 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Chey Richmond  
Pensacola, FL 32503

**From:** [Cf Massey](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:19:42 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Cf Massey  
Brooklyn, NY 11226

**From:** [Jennifer Griffith](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:19:27 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Jennifer Griffith  
Canton, GA 30115

**From:** [Amy Tamagini](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:19:27 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed draft regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

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Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled twice or more. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining. Right whales could be extinct within our lifetime.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Amy Tamagini

Amy Tamagini  
Wareham, MA 02571

**From:** [Carol Lipsky](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:19:26 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

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Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Carol Lipsky  
New York, NY 10021

**From:** [Michael Chesworth](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:19:26 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

As ropeless gear seems to be a real possibility to help mitigate the loss of right whales in our waters, and it is a viable option for those who fish, I ask that language leading to this technology's eventual deployment be included in the draft regulations now being written.

I ask for the whales and their future survival.

Thank you.

Michael Chesworth  
Amherst, MA 01002

**From:** [Maria Grigoriadis](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:19:25 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed draft regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are ship strikes and entanglements: no right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled twice or more. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining. Right whales could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Maria

Maria Grigoriadis  
Melrose, MA 02176

**From:** [Timothy Sullivan](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:19:23 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed draft regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales. There are ways to enact regulations that better protect right whales from these easily preventable dangers.

The primary causes of death for right whales are ship strikes and entanglements: no right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled twice or more. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining. Right whales could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

I am hopeful more thought can go into implementing regulations that truly spare right whales from one of their greatest threats. Thank you.

Timothy Sullivan  
Dorchester Center, MA 2124

**From:** [Patience Dougherty](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:19:23 PM

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Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Patience Dougherty  
Hoosick Falls, NY 12090

**From:** [David And Justine Ross](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:19:22 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed draft regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless fishing gear quickly implemented appears to be the only hope of avoiding eventual extinction.

The primary causes of death for right whales are ship strikes and entanglements: no right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million miles of vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled twice or more. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining. Right whales could be extinct within our lifetime.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

David And Justine Ross  
North Andover, MA 01845

**From:** [Melissa Bauer](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:19:21 PM

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I am concerned about proposed regulations intended to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Melissa Bauer  
Woodstock, GA 30188

**From:** [Carolyn Whiting](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:19:20 PM

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I am writing to express my serious concerns about the proposed draft regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

I was horrified to learn that the primary causes of death for right whales are ship strikes and entanglements: no right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million miles of vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

The need to mitigate this situation is urgent. Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled twice or more. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining. Right whales could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear because the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

I understand that ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. I urgently ask you to implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Carolyn Whiting  
Reading, MA 01867

**From:** [Collin Cheng](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:19:19 PM

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As a Newton Wellesley baby, I've always taken pride in my Massachusetts heritage, given the Commonwealth's efforts to lead the way in respecting the dignity and lives of all. Yet these efforts are threatened with the current draft regulations proposed by the Division of Marine Fisheries today. I am writing to express my concern about the proposed draft regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are ship strikes and entanglements: no right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled twice or more. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining. Right whales could be extinct within our lifetime.

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Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Best,

Collin Cheng

Collin Cheng  
Newton Lower Falls, MA 02462

**From:** [Alexandra Ballantine](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:19:19 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

It's been a hard year for so many, I appreciate your work all the more to engage others and then develop sound practices to save the last few remaining right whales in our waters.

As you've heard by now, the proposed regulations likely do not address the entanglement issue adequately. With everything at stake for these last remaining majestic creatures, I am writing to express my concern about these proposed regulations and ask you revisit them by implementing a faster removal of rope from the whales' natural habitat.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in your state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Alexandra Ballantine  
Brewster, NY 10509

**From:** [Susan Nimchick](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:19:18 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries:

Lets protect right whales that migrate off our coast. Lets do the right thing because we are Massachusetts.

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed draft regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are ship strikes and entanglements: no right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million miles of vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled twice or more. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining. Right whales could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Regards,  
Susan J Nimchick  
Chicopee, Ma. 01020

Susan Nimchick  
Chicopee, MA 01020

**From:** [Deborah Fortunato](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:19:17 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please do the right thing for these previous whales. Plastic and discarded nets in our beautiful oceans are having a tragic effect on our marine wildlife and our environment. I am writing to express my concern about the proposed draft regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are ship strikes and entanglements: no right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled twice or more. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining. Right whales could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you for your consideration on this urgent matter.

Deborah Fortunato  
Cromwell, CT 06416

**From:** [Alexander Costidis](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:19:15 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed draft regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled twice or more. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining. Right whales could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles. While mitigating the threat with weaker line is an important temporary step, ropeless gear is the only way to ensure cessation of continued entanglements.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Alexander Costidis  
Virginia Beach, VA 23451

**From:** [jeanette mayer](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:19:09 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

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Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

jeanette mayer  
Pinellas Park, FL 33781

**From:** [Diane Jones](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:19:06 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

We are human beings, not rulers of the earth. Because of all our intelligence, we can either destroy or preserve the incredible diversity of the only planet we have. It's our job. It's our calling. And it's in our own self interest. Without nature we die.

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

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Thank you.

Diane Jones  
Shrewsbury, MA 01545

**From:** [Steven Combes](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:19:05 PM

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Thank you.

Steven Combes  
Ormond Beach, FL 32176

**From:** [Sarah Sidbeck](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:19:04 PM

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Sarah Sidbeck  
, 33025-3533

**From:** [Rhonda D. Wright MD](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:18:51 PM

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Thank you.

Rhonda D. Wright MD  
Brookhaven, GA 30319

**From:** [Bob Senko](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:18:46 PM

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Bob Senko  
Cape Coral, FL 33993

**From:** [Grace Malara-Aiello](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:18:36 PM

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Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Grace Malara-Aiello  
Middletown, NY 10940

**From:** [Elizabeth Watts](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:18:21 PM

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Thank you.

Elizabeth Watts  
, 33435-8904

**From:** [Cynthia Benkert](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:18:14 PM

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Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

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Thank you.

Cynthia Benkert  
Fort Myers, FL 33913

**From:** [J Santiago](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:14:46 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about proposed regulations to reduce entanglement risks to endangered North Atlantic right whales.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

The primary causes of death for right whales are ship strikes and entanglements. Not a single right whale has died of natural causes in nearly 20 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled twice or more. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining. Right whales could be extinct within our lifetime.

Let's make sure that does not happen by making ropeless gear an attractive option for fishermen.

Thank you.

J Santiago  
Bedford, MA 01730

**From:** [A McCall](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:14:42 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed draft regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

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Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled twice or more. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining. Right whales could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

I believe it's time to revamp the fishing industry, USA and worldwide, to try and eliminate the harmful, destructive and inhumane methods in order to develop safer and sustainable ways to harvest ocean food animals! Please consider the options presented by conservation groups before it's too late! Thank you!

Thank you.

A McCall  
Shirley, MA 01464

**From:** [Bruce and Maureen DeNunzio](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:14:41 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

We are writing to express our concern about the proposed draft regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

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Thank you.

Bruce and Maureen DeNunzio  
Stamford, CT 06902

**From:** [Kerry McCarthy](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:12:42 PM

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Please enact regulations that will actually work to help save the right whale populations. I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

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Thank you.

Kerry McCarthy  
Westbrook, CT 06498

**From:** [Julianne Kever](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:12:34 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

As the people closest to the Northern seasonal home of the Right Whale, our state MUST show bold leadership in saving one of the greatest marine mammals on earth, or be shamed at the lack of actual progressive methods to intervene in the one main cause of the death and diminishing numbers of these ocean giants. PLEASE...

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed draft regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

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Thank you.

Julianne Kever  
Nantucket, MA 02554

**From:** [Kenneth Drucker](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:12:20 PM

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Thank you. Kenneth M. Drucker  
Attleboro, MA

Kenneth Drucker  
Attleboro, MA 2703

**From:** [Slowomir and irene Przybysz](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:12:20 PM

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Thank you.

Slowomir and irene Przybysz  
Wilton, CT 06897

**From:** [Emily Ross](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:12:20 PM

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Do Right by Right Whales! This is a no brainer.

Thank you.

Emily Ross

Emily Ross  
Quincy, MA 02171

**From:** [Bob Butcher](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:12:16 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Refusing to eat lobster campaign is not good for anyone! I am writing to support the efforts to save the right whales and other marine species from entanglement deaths and harm. There has to be a more humane and efficient method to prevent the wasteful deaths of marine species. Turtle excluders were implemented to protect marine wildlife. Let's do something about this industry now.

The primary causes of death for right whales are ship strikes and entanglements: no right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

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Thank you.

Bob Butcher  
Falmouth, MA 02540

**From:** [Tony and Cindy Guarnieri](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 5:12:11 PM

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Thank you.

Tony and Cindy Guarnieri  
Stamford, CT 06905

**From:** [Tom McShane](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:53:08 PM

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Dear Director McKiernan -

Last year I spoke in RI at a NOAA hearing about the fact that the federal government has had a unit exploring ropeless fishing gear for over two decades now. Unfortunately their latest TRT plan and EIS still contains not a single word about the encouragement, advancement or use of ropeless technology.

Im extremely concerned about the whales - and therefore I support your actions regarding expanding closures. However I am also concerned , as I know you are, about preserving the lobster industry.

Ropeless fishing can be a win-win scenario.

Ropeless fishing is also totally consistent with Massachusetts's' tradition of innovation and technological advancement.

In addition to what you have already proposed I ask that you amend your current regulations that require rope to be used for traps in Massachusetts waters - and - that you talk to the economic development agencies of the state to find ways to promote the ropeless technology so that Massachusetts can lead the way for all states to adopt ropeless gear technology.

Using today's GPS technology that is universal, and the acoustic technology that is employed in the four offshore LNG ports off the coast of Gloucester, we can make this happen and in the process save a species and an important industry.

Thank you.

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed draft regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

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Thank you.

Tom McShane  
Mashpee, MA 2649

**From:** [Eugene Brusin](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:52:18 PM

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Let Massachusetts be a leader in saving the right Whales from man made dangers.

Thank you.

Eugene Brusin  
Quincy, MA 02169

**From:** [nancy burger](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:51:51 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed draft regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

Although i cannot attend the meetings i would like to implore you on behalf of myself and my son to please do what is needed!!

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Thank you.

Nancy burger and Wolfgang burger

nancy burger  
Haverhill, MA 01832

**From:** [Liam Morehead](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:51:42 PM

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I'm writing to express my serious concern about the proposed draft regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The reasons are clear enough. But we're at a critical point in our species's history and it's our responsibility as the ones who have devastated the ecological balance of earth to clean it up. If we don't take this more seriously, we'll lose right whales. And our world will never see them again.

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Thank you.

Liam Morehead  
Medford, MA 02155

**From:** [June Haggar](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:51:32 PM

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear has been the technology of the past 20 years so when is this going to be implemented? It is no longer the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

June Haggar  
Revere, MA 02151

**From:** [Catherine Kroeger](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:51:10 PM

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Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale. This is extremely important, and you hold the power. Please use it wisely!

Thank you.

Catherine Kroeger  
Hudson, MA 01749

**From:** [Mary Grady](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:50:29 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed draft regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are ship strikes and entanglements: no right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million miles of vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you very much for helping these majestic creatures. Mary Grady

Mary Grady  
Dorchester Center, MA 2124

**From:** [Shawn Davis](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:50:15 PM

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I am writing this to hopefully advise lawmakers on the ability of ropeless fishing systems to help both fisherman and marine life co-exist. Ropeless technology is quickly improving. Fisherman should be able to seek a special permit to use these systems in closed areas or for testing purposes to further the development.

Thank you.

Shawn Davis  
West Wareham, MA 2576

**From:** [John Santamaria](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:49:52 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

This is urgent. There are only 360 North Atlantic Right Whales left in existence. Entanglement is the leading cause of death for these magnificent creatures.

Do away with the ropes!

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed draft regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are ship strikes and entanglements: no right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million miles of vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

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Thank you.

John Santamaria  
Stoneham, MA 02180

**From:** [Fred Nothnagel](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:49:41 PM

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Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled twice or more. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining. Right whales could be extinct within our lifetime. THIS MUST NOT HAPPEN!

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

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Thank you.

Fred Nothnagel  
North Andover, MA 01845

**From:** [Betsy Smith](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:49:01 PM

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Living on the Cape, every summer we take visitors on whale watches. These magnificent creatures are imperiled, and it is through the fault of human activity. We must do our part to keep this ever-dwindling population healthy by mandating ropeless fishing gear which can help solve the problem of right whale entanglements

Consequently, I am writing to express my concern about the proposed draft regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are ship strikes and entanglements: no right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million miles of vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Betsy Smith  
Centerville, MA 02632

**From:** [Maressa Bonanno](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:48:38 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing to express my grave concern about the proposed draft regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are ship strikes and entanglements: no right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million miles of vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you for your time. I truly hope you'll push to implement ropeless gear in order to protect the North Atlantic right whale. There's no reason why this beautiful animal should go extinct!

Sincerely,

Maressa

Maressa Bonanno  
Hanson, MA 02341

**From:** [Kirby Carter](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:48:13 PM

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I believe that it would be a grave injustice if the DMF passed regulations for North Atlantic right whales that fail to include the development and implementation of ropeless gear technology. This is the only proven method that drastically reduces right whale entanglement while posing no threat to the lobster industry by replacing the need for seasonal fishery closures. I hope that you will see the obvious and dire need to include ropeless gear in any regulations regarding North Atlantic right whales. Thank you

Kirby Carter  
Alexandria, VA 22314

**From:** [Pam Hays](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:48:08 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed draft regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

Right whales have been dying at an alarming pace in the past years, and there are not that many of them left. I encourage you to take any action you can to try to save them now. In a few years it may be too late.

The primary causes of death for right whales are ship strikes and entanglements: no right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million miles of vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled twice or more. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining. Right whales could be extinct within our lifetime.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Pam Hays  
Littleton, MA 01460

**From:** [Matt Richardson](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:47:28 PM

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I am writing to you bc this is very important to me. We need to do more to protect the North Atlantic right whales just like we need to do more to protect biodiversity. We are loosing whales, salmon, orcas, ... the list goes on. We need stronger regulation to do more than protect. We need regulations to allow populations to recover.

I am concerned about the proposed draft regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are ship strikes and entanglements: no right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million miles of vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Matt Richardson  
San Francisco, CA 94123

**From:** [Tracy Michalski](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:47:11 PM

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I don't see how the DMF could omit the potential for ropeless gear technology in drafting regulations to protect the North Atlantic right whales. Other countries such as Canada, have been using ropeless gear technology and has seen its success. The right whales are dying at an alarming rate and I fear we could see their extinction in my lifetime should we fail to implement sufficient protective measures. I hope you will implement a pilot program that showcases ropeless gear. Thank you.

Tracy Michalski  
Chestnut Hill, MA 02467

**From:** [Brenda Palmer](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:46:43 PM

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Thank you.

Brenda Palmer  
San Diego, CA 92120

**From:** [Denise Siele](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:46:23 PM

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Thank you.

Denise Siele  
Boca Raton, FL 33428

**From:** [Bonnie Fiegel](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:46:05 PM

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Thank you.

Bonnie Fiegel  
Seminole, FL 33772

**From:** [Susan Ponchot](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:45:55 PM

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Thank you.

Susan Ponchot  
Sunrise, FL 33351

**From:** [Christine Farrugia](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:45:51 PM

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Thank you.

Christine Farrugia  
Kissimmee, FL 34759

**From:** [Niles Busler](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:45:39 PM

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The future of so many and so much depend on what we do now. Please don't kick the can down the road. Please pass the Right law now to take care of their future.

Thank you.

Niles Busler  
Townsend, MA 01469

**From:** [Quinn Lewis](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:44:27 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I was horrified to learn there are only 366 North Atlantic right whales left in the world. With entanglement being a lead cause of death for right whales, I am troubled with how the DMF could draft regulations to protect right whales without including the potential of ropeless gear technology. Ropeless gear has proven extremely effective in reducing the risk of entanglement for right whales and will pose no risk to the lobster industry (like seasonal closures does).

I hope you will consider ropeless gear when drafting these new regulations because frankly, the right whales do not have time for inaction.

Quinn Lewis  
Great Falls, VA 22066

**From:** [Cie Simurro](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:44:11 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

It's high time we learn to live in peace with the natural world.

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed draft regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are ship strikes and entanglements: no right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million miles of vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled twice or more. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining. Right whales could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Cie Simurro  
Buckland, MA 01338

**From:** [Floyd Smith](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:43:59 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed draft regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

Speed limits for shipping work can reduce collisions.  
Accurate surveillance of all shipping and whales is crucial.

Please consider reducing the number of vertical lines and buoys in the water. Fishers can set longer strings of traps on the bottom and use just ONE buoy and vertical line. 20 traps on a string instead of 3 or singles for example. It is the overabundance of lines rising from the bottom that entangle the 2 whales. Lines concentrated in "patches" would be easier for whales to avoid and would leave more open water for them to feed and migrate. Increased surveillance will better identify their "grounds" which should be clear of traffic and fishing gear. Sonic pulse generators tuned to whale hearing frequencies could warn right whales of gear concentrations too.  
Some ideas for actions. Think again. Fishers do not own the seas and all in it. They have to share again.  
Do much more to clear water for these whales before they are all killed.

The primary causes of death for right whales are ship strikes and entanglements: no right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Floyd Smith  
Leverett, MA 01054

**From:** [Judith Rakowsky](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:43:44 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I have had a Right Whale license plate for decades, telling everyone on the road we should be doing more to save them. But insufficient action has been taken to save these endangered amazing mammals. We have the chance to do something about it. I am very concerned about the proposed draft regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are ship strikes and entanglements: no right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million miles of vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled twice or more. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining. Right whales could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Judith Rakowsky  
Cambridge, MA 2140

**From:** [Justine Ross](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:42:59 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Thank you for taking my comments.

If we are to prevent extinction of the magnificent right whale within a generation, it is time that we abandon the destructive fishing practices of the past and join with others around the world who are using ropeless fishing gear to harvest lobsters. Action must be taken now to avoid a catastrophe.

For the right whale, navigation through the hundreds, if not thousands, of vertical fishing lines off the coast of Massachusetts is comparable to you or me crossing I-93 in downtown Boston at rush-hour (even during the current COVID Pandemic!) We wouldn't stand a chance, and they don't either. With so few right whales living on the planet, their lives cannot be squandered.

The proposed draft regulations that were created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales are of concern to me.

The primary causes of death for right whales are ship strikes and entanglements: no right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled twice or more. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining. Right whales could be extinct within our lifetime.

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Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Justine Ross  
North Andover, MA 01845

**From:** [Kathy Branagan](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:42:17 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed draft regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are ship strikes and entanglements: no right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled twice or more. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining. Right whales could be extinct within our lifetime.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

It is not acceptable that today's DMF becomes the group that allowed the right whale to go extinct. It is not acceptable that today's DMF allows right whales to go extinct.

Please require ropeless gear now to prevent the permanent extinction of right whales.

Thank you.

Kathy Branagan

Kathy Branagan  
Natick, MA 01760

**From:** [Kimberly Gilman](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:42:13 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed draft regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales. How can you allow the senseless and needless killing of creatures when a solution is available through ropeless gear??

The primary causes of death for right whales are ship strikes and entanglements: no right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled twice or more. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining. Right whales could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale. Please act according to the urgency of this matter.

Thank you.

Kimberly Gilman  
Carlisle, MA 01741

**From:** [Stewart Kennedy](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:42:08 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed draft regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

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Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled twice or more. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining. Right whales could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

There is no reasonable tradeoff between safety for the right whales and convenience for the lobstermen. Ropeless gear must be required! I can do without eating lobster; but my heart would break if my special Massachusetts license plate, beginning with RW, were to become an anachronism. Please take sensible action.

Thank you.

Stewart Kennedy  
Wellfleet, MA 02667

**From:** [Robert Bender](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:41:55 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed draft regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. There is simply no time left to waste. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Robert Bender  
West Yarmouth, MA 02673

**From:** [Quinton Zondervan](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:41:31 PM

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Please save the whales!!

Thank you.

Quinton Zondervan  
Cambridge, MA 2141

**From:** [Julie McCormack](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:41:22 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

What is the MA coastline without our whales? Please - we must do what we can now to save them.

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed draft regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are ship strikes and entanglements: no right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

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Thank you.

Julie McCormack  
Natick, MA 01760

**From:** [Eric Chast](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:41:22 PM

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Thank you.  
Eric

Eric Chast  
Leominster, MA 01453

**From:** [Michael Murphy](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:39:11 PM

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.....  
Hello, my name is Michael Murphy. I am an environmental scientist working with the EPA to help keep our rivers, oceans, lakes, wetlands, and neighborhoods safe from man-made contaminants in our drinking water and soils. To say that the outlook of this cause is grim would be an understatement, given the continued development and slow-stepped transitions away from chemicals that at one time in human history helped change the nation forever, for better or worse.

I can't say that these findings working in the lab over the past 3+ years have given us a positive outlook, but we are still holding all polluters and municipalities accountable thanks to the ethical and accurate work of our analytical and extractions teams. That being said, a number of marine animals have already been effected by our continued expansion into their territory, using nets, fishing lines, trawling nets of vessels, the use of SONAR to track schools of fish to attain maximum yield, and of course the mounting level of plastics in all of these waters the animals call home. Simply put, we don't belong at sea, and neither does our jetsam. As the saying goes for parks "leave nothing but your footprints."

We have clearly overstepped our boundaries in the oceans already, with a dwindling population of right whales that migrate north and south naturally across the entire Atlantic coast. These whales meet us here in Florida as well, and they are truly a sight to behold. We don't get many visitors as large as them who are so gentle and similar to us in

their mannerisms and family behaviors per pod. They raise families as we do and look out for each other.

I am calling on the State of Massachusetts to take a stand in this catastrophic population drop, as it not only effects your coast, but the coasts of all whom border the Atlantic. Your fishing practices are effecting the entire eastern seaboard of North America. If these whales were to disappear, it will be troublesome

Michael Murphy  
Ormond Beach, FL 32176

**From:** [Robert Dea](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:38:52 PM

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We can do this! And never has it been as important as now!

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

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Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Robert Dea  
Newbury, MA 01951

**From:** [Alex Epple](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:38:39 PM

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Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Alex Epple  
Virginia Beach, VA 23452

**From:** [Christine Groundwater](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:38:34 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

My family and I vacationed for 25 years on Cape Cod. We came every summer because of the natural beauty of the landscape and the incredible wildlife in the area. We also valued the appreciation that the majority of Cape Cod inhabitants demonstrated for their environment and the creatures that make their home here. It's why we chose to retire here full time. However, we now have a large concern about the recent proposed state's measures to reduce the impact of fishery entanglement on right whales, and other marine species. The proposed regulations are simply not enough.

The majestic North Atlantic right whale is at risk of extinction. The primary causes of death for right whales are ship strikes and entanglements. No right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. I am writing to express my concern about the proposed draft regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales. The proposed regulations are simply not enough to address the entanglement risks that right whales face in our Massachusetts' waters.

The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed. This includes Massachusetts state waters. These ropes pose a large threat of entanglement for our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale and therefore increase the likelihood of extinction.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled twice or more. The population, which is estimated at only 366, is rapidly declining. We could cause and see the extinction of right whales in our lifetime, but we can stop it!

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. Draft regulations would only require using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots. This is not enough. Breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles further reducing their numbers and long-term sustainability. To protect the North Atlantic Right Whale this proposal must be revised entirely, and provide for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. Extensive data indicate ropeless fishing gear has a 98.4 percent success rate, and multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today and keep the fishing industry healthy while protecting sea mammals including the North Atlantic right whale.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping our fisherman and the fishing industry viable. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the North Atlantic right whale. We can make a difference if we act now.

Thank you.

Christine Groundwater  
Brewster, MA 2631

**From:** [Erline Towner](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:38:27 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please take a hard look at the main cause of harm to right whales. The difficulty of coming up with a practical solution has put off a way to save Right Whales. However inconvenient to industry, large or small, it is the industry that decimates this species. It is time to withdraw the blank check afforded industry where profit had the final say. Those days are over. The time for giving equal or higher value to species and the environment is at hand due to the blatant disregard of those values by profiteers. Time to wake up.

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed draft regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are ship strikes and entanglements: no right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled twice or more. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining. Right whales could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Erline Towner  
Milford, NH 03055

**From:** [Victoria Nadel](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:38:07 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed draft regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales. Right whales are among the most endangered species of whales in the world all because of human behavior - they were targets of commercial whaling and they now suffer from being struck by ships and tangling in fishing lines. North Atlantic right whales have a long gestation period and a long weaning period - their numbers can be counted in the hundreds today.

The primary causes of death for right whales are ship strikes and entanglements: no right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled twice or more. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining. Right whales could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Victoria Nadel  
Salem, MA 01970

**From:** [Rie Liotta](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:37:53 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Rie Liotta

Rie Liotta  
San Mateo, CA 94402

**From:** [Susan Neilly](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:37:25 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales. We need to do all we can to protect these whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Susan Neilly  
Weston, CT 06883

**From:** [Rachel Bramson](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:37:13 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

We need to act now for right whales and all marine mammals.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Rachel Bramson  
Wellfleet, MA 02667

**From:** [Susan Neilly](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:37:13 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales. We need to do everything possible to protect these whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Susan Neilly  
Weston, CT 06883

**From:** [Sarah Sharp](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:37:05 PM

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The State of MA must act now to save right whales and it can be done while still allowing lobstermen to make a living. Ropeless fishing must be considered in the draft regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales. I am deeply concerned that the state is not taking the lead to ensure that both right whales and fishermen survive the next decade.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has been identified as dying of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled twice or more. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining. Right whales could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles and pose sublethal harm to adults.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Sarah Sharp  
Yarmouth Port, MA 2675

**From:** [Paxton Decker](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:37:04 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am deeply concerned about the proposed regulations seeking to reduce reduce entanglement risks for North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements. No adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years! The East Coast has over one million vertical lines, and whales must navigate through these in order to feed, including in Massachusetts waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Paxton Decker  
Chestnut Hill, MA 2467

**From:** [Leslie Ann Bosse](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:36:40 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Massachusetts, I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.  
Leslie Ann Bosse

Leslie Ann Bosse  
, 06516

**From:** [Stephen St. Pierre](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:36:34 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Stephen J. St. Pierre, DVM

Stephen St. Pierre  
Nantucket, MA 2554

**From:** [Misty Niemeyer](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:36:15 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

We don't have time to waste, we need to take strong actions ASAP.

Thank you.

Misty Niemeyer  
East Falmouth, MA 02536

**From:** [Nicola Rinaldi](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:36:01 PM

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\*\*\*Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.  
\*\*\*

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Nicola Rinaldi  
Arlington, MA 02474

**From:** [Rick Blanchett](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:35:50 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Rick Blanchett  
Fort Myers, FL 33913

**From:** [s.lowe](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:35:44 PM

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Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

s lowe  
Sebastian, FL 32958

**From:** [s.lowe](#)  
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**From:** [Rusty Rollings](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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Rusty Rollings  
Palm Coast, FL 32164

**From:** [Nancy Blanchett](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:35:19 PM

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Nancy Blanchett  
Fort Myers, FL 33913

**From:** [Morgan Pica](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:35:09 PM

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Thank you.

Morgan Pica  
Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411

**From:** [Alex Chambers](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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Alex Chambers  
Boylston, MA 01505

**From:** [Amy Harlib](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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Amy Harlib  
New York, NY 10011

**From:** [Jacqueline Stanton](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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Thank you.

Jacqueline Stanton  
Fitchburg, MA 01420

**From:** [Wayne Cohen](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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Wayne Cohen  
Plainville, MA 02762

**From:** [Alan MacLamroc](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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Alan MacLamroc  
Smyrna, GA 30080

**From:** [gil hall](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:34:17 PM

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Please consider new regulations concerning ropeless gear for harvesting lobster nets. It could save the lives of many of the very few remaining right whales in this area.

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gil hall  
Miami, FL 33131

**From:** [Tom Anderson](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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Tom Anderson  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33334

**From:** [Elaine Eudy](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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Elaine Eudy  
East Point, GA 30344

**From:** [Margot Brennan](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
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Margot Brennan  
Marietta, GA 30060

**From:** [Judy Moran](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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Judy Moran  
Panama City, FL 32404

**From:** [Pamela Emery](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Pamela Emery  
Seminole, FL 33772

**From:** [Tim Porter](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:33:22 PM

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Tim Porter  
Panama City, FL 32404

**From:** [Caryl Speck](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:33:16 PM

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Caryl Speck  
Melbourne, FL 32940

**From:** [Nancy Telese](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:33:11 PM

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Nancy Telese  
Palm Beach, FL 33480

**From:** [Ray Speck](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:32:58 PM

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Ray Speck  
Melbourne, FL 32940

**From:** [Jane S Coe](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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Jane S Coe  
Boxford, MA 01921

**From:** [Yana Margolin](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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Yana Margolin  
Boynton Beach, FL 33472

**From:** [doug krause](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:32:36 PM

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doug krause  
Fargo, ND 58102

**From:** [Sandy Knudsen](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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Thank you.

Sandy Knudsen  
Sunrise, FL 33323

**From:** [Alla Sobel](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:32:12 PM

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Alla Sobel  
New York, NY 10023

**From:** [Lynn Forsht](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:32:02 PM

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Lynn Forsht  
Homestead, FL 33031

**From:** [Quentin Halfyard](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:31:54 PM

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Hi

I listened with interest to the debate in your first webinar 2 weeks ago.

It's obvious that you are concerned to take action on this important issue which is absolutely critical for the survival of this species.

However I'm wondering if these proposals go far enough. You explained that there have only been a couple of entanglement cases occurring in this area, but with things at such a critical point surely the stakes are much too high to take ANY avoidable risks? Surely the case for further reducing or even eliminating non-subsistence rope fishing, and accelerating ropeless fishing, is absolutely overwhelming.

Please do the right thing for all future generations.

Thank you.

Quentin Halfyard  
, HP13AE

**From:** [Janell Blackmore](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:31:46 PM

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Janell Blackmore  
Apopka, FL 32712

**From:** [Elizabeth Schwartz](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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Thank you.

Elizabeth Schwartz  
Long Island City, NY 11106

**From:** [Bryan Kirshon](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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Bryan Kirshon  
Melbourne, FL 32904

**From:** [Stephanie Bourdelle](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:31:23 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The right whales were a saving grace for the early settlers because they were easy to catch and get to; hence their name. It now seems they should be renamed wrong whales since they are now almost extinct due to fishing rope entanglements.

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Thank you.

Stephanie Bourdelle  
Sheffield, VT 05866

**From:** [Beverly Propen](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:31:15 PM

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As an environmentalist and wildlife advocate, I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

North Atlantic Right whales are an integral part of our marine biodiversity! Their numbers are plummeting and we must protect them immediately. It would be tragic to see their numbers decline.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale. Please act immediately.

Thank you.

Beverly Propen  
Orange, CT 06477

**From:** [Cindy Chen](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:31:04 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed draft regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are ship strikes and entanglements: no right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million miles of vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled twice or more. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining. Right whales could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Cindy Chen  
Melrose, MA 02176

**From:** [Jean Mark](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:30:54 PM

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The time is now. We cannot wait.

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. PLEASE implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.  
Jean M. Mark

Jean Mark  
Duxbury, MA 02332

**From:** [Irene Grappone](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:30:45 PM

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Save right whales!

I am concerned about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. Th

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Irene Grappone  
Charlestown, RI 02813

**From:** [Marypatricia Scott](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:30:27 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale. Once they are gone we can't get them back.

Thank you.  
Marypat Scott

Marypatricia Scott  
Chepachet, RI 02814

**From:** [Sarah Davitian-Reiner](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:30:17 PM

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I go to school in MA, but am from NJ and saw today that my Senator Cory Booker spoke out for the North Atlantic whales. I am very proud of Senator Booker and urge the DMF to fight for these creatures by incorporating ropeless gear into their new regulations. These whales have been put at risk and ignored for far too long.

Thank you.

Sarah Davitian-Reiner  
Florham Park, NJ 07932

**From:** [Amy Carafa](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:30:10 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements. These ropes pose a direct risk to the whales.

Please allow ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

Thank you.

Amy Carafa  
Peabody, MA 01960

**From:** [Sara Franklin](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:30:00 PM

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I spend most summers visiting the cape. It's been a destination for my whole family for generations, the highlight of our travels there are whale watches on the dolphin fleet and Portuguese princess out of Provincetown. There are scientifically proven ways to help preserve North Atlantic right whales while still allowing successful fishing. It's imperative that regulation protects the whales' lives as much as it does the lively hood of the fisherman. I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Sara Franklin  
Norwich, CT 06360

**From:** [RICHARD SOKOLER](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:29:48 PM

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Please do the right thing now so this species can survive!

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

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DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Richard Sokoler

RICHARD SOKOLER  
Wellfleet, MA 02667

**From:** [Ava Mastrostefano](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:29:39 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

North Atlantic Right Whales are near extinction and their primary causes of death are anthropogenic in nature: vessel strikes and entanglements. Not one adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Ava Mastrostefano  
North Grafton, MA 01536

**From:** [Judith Reilly](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:29:28 PM

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I understand that the the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales are insufficient to provide adequate protection.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water.

Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Judith Reilly  
Salem, MA 01970

**From:** [Jason McKelvey](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:29:17 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Please do the right thing here.

Thank you.

Jason McKelvey  
Gardner, MA 01440

**From:** [Linda Como](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:29:07 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales. Please consider a plan that will do MORE to save the whales. We can do better. We have the technology!

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Linda Como  
Quincy, MA 02169

**From:** [Charles Henebry](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:28:54 PM

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The evidence is in: ropes kill whales. With just 300-odd Right Whales left in the North Atlantic, we need to act. Ropeless lobsterpots and other ropeless fishing systems may be a bit more expensive, but that cost can be passed on to consumers. Or maybe the state can subsidise the cost of the upgrade.

I care about this issue and I vote.

The boilerplate text follows:

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Charles Henebry  
Cambridge, MA 02139

**From:** [Johanna Deery](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:28:41 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

As a race we humans are able to learn from the past, we need to apply that ability to saving these whales. At a time when we should all be reflecting on our impact on this planet and how we can collectively make a difference. It does not need to be an either or situation, we can effectively meet the needs of the fishermen and save the whales.

I say this as the granddaughter of a fisherman. He relied on the fish in the sea to care for his family at home. He understood that we need to live in harmony with nature.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.  
Johanna Deery

Johanna Deery  
Quincy, MA 02169

**From:** [Charles Talley](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:28:34 PM

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Dear Director McKiernan, I writing in support of the proposal to implement ropeless gear in the waters off our coast as a way to mitigate the future loss of north atlantic right whales. I can't imagine the arguement made for not putting measures like this in place long befor now while the very existence of a species hangs in the balance and since no explanation was offered at last nights hearing, the right time is now to take this reasonable step toward a sustainable future for the other occupants of this planet. Thank you for your attention to this concern.

Chuck

. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Charles Talley  
New Bedford, MA 02740

**From:** [Laurie Freeman](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:28:21 PM

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Thank you for your work trying to protect right whales in our waters off the Massachusetts coast. Unfortunately the proposed regulations are not going to achieve their objective without incorporating a pathway for ropeless gear requirements. We cannot allow our right whales to go extinct after decades of efforts to protect them. I moved to Massachusetts in 1995 and remember obtaining a right whale license plate to support their protection - how are they again on the verge of extinction - this is not acceptable.

The technology is available now to advance ropeless fishing thereby saving ocean species & the critical ecosystems that support a flourishing fishing industry and this needs to be included in your regulations in order for the right whale to not accelerate toward extinction.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Laurie Freeman  
Hingham, MA 02043

**From:** [Alex Wolf](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:28:10 PM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

We must advocate for endangered mammals and protect all species!

Thank you.

Alex Wolf  
Arlington, MA 02474

**From:** [Susan Batson](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:27:59 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am very concerned about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

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Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

We are counting on you!  
Thank you.

Susan Batson  
Milton, MA 02186

**From:** [Danielle Borys](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:27:52 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to NA right whales.

DMF should consider ropeless gear to save the whales. Ropeless gear is the tech of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen in the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Please help save the whales!

Danielle Borys  
Milford, CT 06460

**From:** [Grace Barter](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:27:45 PM

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As a voter and concerned citizen, I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you for your time.

Grace Barter  
East Sandwich, MA 02537

**From:** [John Dwyer](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:27:37 PM

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Thank you.  
John Dwyer

John Dwyer  
Salem, MA 01970

**From:** [Kelli Kirshtein](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:27:18 PM

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Without this action, the depleted right whale population faces certain extinction. Please act before it is too late!

Thank you.

Kelli Kirshtein  
Maynard, MA 01754

**From:** [Fabienne Valdes](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:27:07 PM

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Ensuring the ecological balance of our oceans benefits us all.

Thank you.

Fabienne Valdes

Fabienne Valdes  
Florence, MA 01062

**From:** [Jessica Grigg](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:26:54 PM

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Hello,

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

I cannot see how the following does not concern you or sway you to enact serious changes in the attempts to save these creatures.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you and I hope you will act appropriately,  
Jessica Grigg

Jessica Grigg  
Boxford, MA 01921

**From:** [Neige Christenson](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:26:47 PM

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Dear Humans, please do what is right for these amazing creatures who are worthy of respect and mercy!!! I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

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Thank you.

Neige Christenson  
Waltham, MA 02452

**From:** [Edward Sourdiffe](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:26:37 PM

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I would hope I live in a state that would protect the last member of a species from extinction. We cannot create or recreate a species, but perhaps we can show some intelligence by helping to save one.

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

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Thank you.

Edward Sourdiffe  
Chester, MA 01011

**From:** [Rosamond Groves](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:26:25 PM

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Every life depends on every life  
Please do everything possible to protect the whales  
Thank you.

Rosamond Groves  
Eastham, MA 02642

**From:** [Dia Chigas](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:26:13 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years!

The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. That's horrible.

Obviously these ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice.

The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Think about that. Right whales extinct in our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

Ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate.  
If it works, why won't you use it????

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales.

Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water.

Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

PLEASE.  
For our children, for our grandchildren.

Thank you.

Dia Chigas  
Acton, MA 01720

**From:** [Kate Andres](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:26:07 PM

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Thank you.  
Kate Andres  
Cambridge, MA

Kate Andres  
Cambridge, MA 02140

**From:** [Brenda Komarinski](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:26:00 PM

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I want to give my children, my grandchildren, my great-children a world that has right whales in it. When my daughter was 4, she hung up a drawing of a whale and a note saying "Don't Kill Whales."

I ask that you listen to the wisdom of my child.

Thank you.

Brenda Komarinski  
Billerica, MA 01821

**From:** [Jack Melton](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:25:50 PM

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Thank you.  
Jack Melton

Jack Melton  
Newburyport, MA 01950

**From:** [Janet Bargar](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:25:31 PM

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Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

I am asking that the DMF consider ropeless gear to save NorthAtlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.  
Janet Bargar

Janet Bargar  
Quincy, MA 02169

**From:** [Katrina Rapa](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:25:23 PM

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Hello,

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.  
Katrina A. Rapa

Katrina Rapa  
Methuen, MA 01844

**From:** [Kim Wright](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:25:02 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

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Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Please help the whales. Thank you.

Kim Wright  
Billerica, MA 01821

**From:** [Kate Mills](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:24:55 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale before it's too late.

Thank you for your attention.

Kate Mills  
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

**From:** [Tina Grosowsky](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:24:43 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales. The current situation is untenable!

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale. This NEEDS to stop!!

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider the lives of whales above economic gain by individuals! Adopt ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.  
Tina Grosowsky

Tina Grosowsky  
Hudson, MA 01749

**From:** [Allison Argo](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:24:31 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am extremely concerned about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Allison Argo  
Brewster, MA 02631

**From:** [Stephane Acel-Green](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:24:19 PM

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As a salt-water sport fisherman, I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

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Thank you.

Stephane Acel-Green  
Watertown, MA 02472

**From:** [Cat Sargent](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:24:09 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

I joined two meetings this week in which the regulations were explained and discussed and listened to questions and public comment on the issues.

I am brand new to this discussion and cannot pretend to be deeply educated on the facts. But I DO know that the possibility of witnessing the extinction of right whales in our lifetime is one that moves me to take action. It is not only the loss of an impressive and historically significant creature that we are facing, but untold ripple effects that would impact the natural systems around those whales.

I am very impressed with the care and thought that has gone into the proposals already on the table. I am also aware that fishermen and women are stretched thin and there's a lobby to protect their livelihoods -- which makes sense.

At the same time, ropeless fishing gear is in use in many areas and is proven to be much more effective at protecting right whales than anything else being proposed. Since it's out there and it works, the state of Massachusetts should be doing everything possible to make it part of our state's fishing infrastructure. ASAP.

Where there's a will, there's a way. Please generate the support for both.

Thank you.

Cat Sargent  
Northampton, MA 01060

**From:** [Richard Norris](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:24:04 PM

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Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.  
Richard Norris, MD

Richard Norris  
Florence, MA 01062

**From:** [Donna Scalcione](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:23:55 PM

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North Atlantic right whales are at risk and I strongly urge you to make ropeless gear the law. You can fix this so easily and do the right things to protect these whales and prevent their extinction.

Thank you.

Donna Scalcione  
Marlborough, MA 01752

**From:** [Barbara Rynkowski](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:23:49 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

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Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

There is no time to waste in making these changes and it is appalling that so many have already died or been injured. We are a race of intelligent people who have been give the privilege to live on this earth with these magnificent creatures. Surely these changes can be made to help them survive.

Thank you.

Barbara Rynkowski  
, 01915-3408

**From:** [Brooks Coe](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:23:41 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing to express my strong support for MA to adopt regulations that require the use of ropeless gear to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales. Proposed regulations do not do enough to protect right whales. I understand that there are other interests at stake, but I believe that if you adopt a more stringent regulation and then provide incentive and help to fisher people who need it, we will make progress faster than we would were you not to a push forward regulations for ropeless gear.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you,

Brooksany Coe

Brooks Coe  
Cambridge, MA 02140

**From:** [Diane Dixon](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:23:30 PM

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We should all pause for thought at the devastating affect of COVID19 on our human lives, caused by our heedless rush to profit without due regard for the environmental buffer that diversity and sustainability offer to us as guardians of our planet. This pandemic is a bell tolling as a warning, as a countdown, that our individual actions matter in the balance of nature, and we are running out of time. Yes there are economic arguments, so let us invest in new and better, green, sustainable economies. Lets support our fishermen in ways that produce a better outcome for all of us that share the planet. We can not continue to use the environment as a free resource and every part connects with another. If we are pushing one part to extinction so we are pushing ourselves to extinction. If we protect the offspring of the right whale so we protect our own offspring. How can 1 million lines be a reasonable situation. Ropeless gear has proven to be successful. Not implementing this protocol will bring certain extinction within our lifetime, another death toll we cannot afford, look around at those who don't heed scientific advice, this is a crisis and your decisions matter.

And so, I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.  
Diane

Diane Dixon  
Wenham, MA 01984



**From:** [Carol Haagensen](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:23:20 PM

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I, a citizen and tax payer of Massachusetts, a state which has an opportunity and an obligation to be good stewards of the coastline within our borders, am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Carol Haagensen  
Westborough, MA 01581

**From:** [Maureen Griffin](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:23:15 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. This is outrageous, especially when there is a missing solution at our fingertips.

The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime. Extinct is forever, so we must act now to prevent it.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear is a proven solution. It has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Maureen Griffin  
Lowell, MA 01850

**From:** [Betsy Ducharme](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:23:07 PM

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There are problems with our planet that are hard to solve. Don't make this one of them. There is a viable solution. Do the right thing and save these whales. We will only benefit from their continued existence on our planet.

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

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Thank you.

Betsy Ducharme  
Easthampton, MA 01027

**From:** [Paula Levine](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:22:54 PM

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DO THE RIGHT THING. PLEASE BE KIND PLEASE.

Thank you.

Paula Levine

Paula Levine  
Boston, MA 02116

**From:** [Kimberly Keown](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:22:45 PM

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Without right whales we lose our ocean ecosystems, our fish populations and climate change hastens. No fish no fishing industry. Less food for humans. Nylon ropes are killing the whales and polluting our planet. Get on it and stop entanglement now!

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Kimberly Keown  
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

**From:** [Gale Grey](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:22:37 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

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Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Please think of the whales! How much harm have we already done in the past. We need to make up for that.

Thank you.

Gale Grey  
Johnston, RI 02919

**From:** [Rhoda Seet-Taylor](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:22:26 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please do the right thing! I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Rhoda Seet-Taylor  
New Fairfield, CT 06812

**From:** [Rayne Brown](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:22:18 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

I, myself, am looking to go into marine biology, because of the amount of harm that is being done to marine life in waters near our country. Hearing that the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries is looking to change how people fish, in order to protect the right whales from entanglement while on their migration track makes me so happy.

I've always found the way that some fishermen fish, with rope or even invisible net is what led me to Pershing a career in marine biology. I want to be able to make a difference to help the lives of marine life.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

This number is astonishing for me, because I did not realize that whales are part of the population of marine life that are being harmed due to fishing equipment that is disregarded and left in the waters or improperly used or placed. Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

I want to go into Marine Biology in order to help make a difference in the lives of marine life and having the opportunity to leave a comment in order to have the opinions of others is an amazing feeling. I have always felt that using rope or net to fish is not a fair way to fish. Meaning that the fish or other marine life don't have the opportunity to be able to untangle themselves or get away from them.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

I believe that with this high of a success rate ropeless fishing gear should be used everywhere. There shouldn't be any reason as to why it hasn't been legalized or used on the East Coast, or any other places for that matter. If there has been a proven success rate this high, then there shouldn't be a need to procrastinate and should adjust allow people to use it or legalize it.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

No animal deserves to be tangled in rope or net that is left or even just being used. If there is a safer way to fish, it should be used. Marine life are some of the most harmed animals as of right now. I believe that in order to keep them safe and healthy, large steps such as implementing ropeless gear, need to be taken. Change can not be made until that first step is taken. And that would be to make safer gear for other marine life.

Thank you.

Rayne Brown  
Canaan, CT 06018

**From:** [Jennifer Birenbach](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:22:04 PM

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At this period in time when people all over the world are evaluating how to move forward, your work is more important than ever. When considering rules around our marine wildlife, considering their future is critical- there is no "second chance" with all the creatures on our planet- including us and right whales too.

I am concerned about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear could be a good step in the right direction given the data around whale losses caused by human activity.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Jennifer Birenbach  
Arlington, MA 02474

**From:** [Linda Obedzinski](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:21:55 PM

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As a citizen concerned about the health of our oceans and it's creatures, I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. What a sad statement about how little we care about our impact on these majestic creatures! The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in MA state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to the state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime. I don't want to tell my grandchildren someday that our generation watched as they dies horrible deaths.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today. We must not wait to save this critically endangered species! Action is needed now.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Linda Obedzinski  
Glastonbury, CT 06033

**From:** [A McCall](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:21:43 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

Is it POSSIBLE to attach some cheap form of GPS locator or transmitter beacon to gear, so that if it gets lost, it's easy to find and then release whatever has become caught???

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

A McCall  
Shirley, MA 01464

**From:** [Phyllis Troia](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:21:34 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime. Once again, humankind, in search of fun and profit and dominion over all, is destroying our wildlife, sentient, intelligent beings who a right to LIVE!

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Phyllis Troia  
Plymouth, MA 02360

**From:** [Annie Laurie](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:21:22 PM

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I am writing to express my extreme concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Annie Laurie  
Dracut, MA 01826

**From:** [Lily Mooney](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:21:16 PM

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I am writing to express serious concerns about the regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

The current population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water.

Choosing not to pursue ropeless gear would be negligent and cruel. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Lily Mooney  
West Roxbury, MA 02132

**From:** [John DiMino](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:21:11 PM

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Save the Whales!

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you,

John

John DiMino  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

**From:** [Barbara Kamicker](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:20:59 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please save the right whales by enacting legislation to reduce and preferably prevent entanglement of these endangered mammals.

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Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.  
Barb

Barbara Kamicker  
Niantic, CT 06357

**From:** [Margot Storez](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:20:46 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

My name is Margot and I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Margot Storez  
, ab24 3dl

**From:** [Joyce Barringer](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:20:37 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

We've lost a great deal this year, in so many ways. It is our responsibility to save creatures who suffer because of our actions, and have no way to help themselves.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Joyce Barringer  
Cambridge, MA 02140

**From:** [David Miller](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:20:29 PM

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I am greatly concerned about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

No adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you in advance for your support.

David Miller  
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

**From:** [MaryDana Gershanoff](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:20:22 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

We must do our part now to save endangered species for ourselves and all future generations.

Thank you.

MaryDana Gershanoff  
Lincoln, MA 01773

**From:** [Marilyn Conrad](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:20:13 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

I believe this Is Imperative ... All life matters!

Thank you.

Marilyn Conrad  
Worcester, MA 01607

**From:** [D. Conley](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:19:59 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales, our state marine mammal.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: remarkably, no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines through which right whales must navigate in order to feed, including in Massachusetts state waters. These ropes pose a direct and immediate risk to the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated today at only 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to the smaller right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

D. Conley  
Belmont, MA 02478

**From:** [Michelle Collar](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:19:47 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

The time to act is now. Thank you for your consideration.

Thank you.

Michelle Collar  
North Attleboro, MA 02760

**From:** [Deborah Siegal](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:19:32 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast with a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. It's the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale. Not doing so is nothing other than greed and arrogance.

Thank you.

Deborah Siegal  
West Falmouth, MA 02574

**From:** [Aurelie Catherine Cormier](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:19:26 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales. I grew up on the Cape, and know how treasured these Right Whales are. With only 366 of them left, it is critical that we do everything we can to prevent their extinction. It seems reasonable that we must continue to address this issue on 2 fronts: transition as soon as reasonably possible to ropeless fishing and lobster harvesting As Well As continue to ensure all necessary restrictions to prevent vessel strikes in Massachusetts Bay and the outlined Protected area off our shores.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Aurelie Catherine Cormier  
Needham, MA 02492

**From:** [ANGEL MEDINA](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:19:16 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I have to express my concern about the regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

ANGEL MEDINA  
Bridgeport, CT 06610

**From:** [Mike Moros](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:18:57 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

Vessel strikes and entanglements are a direct risk to the North Atlantic right whale.

The real answer is to eat less seafood! I am vegan. I eat no seafood.

Thank you.

Mike Moros  
Medford, MA 02155

**From:** [Jim Holland](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:18:50 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

The main cause of death for right whales are ship strikes and entanglements. Off the Atlantic coast there are over one million vertical lines that right whales avoid in order to feed, including in Massachusetts waters. These are a deadly risk to the North Atlantic right whale. Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once. The population, estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Ropeless gear works! It has a 98.4 percent success rate. DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Jim Holland  
Brewster, MA 02631

**From:** [Sue Mayne](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:18:42 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am sure you are aware of the dwindling North Atlantic right whale population and the role that entanglement plays in their death.

How is it that you are not including ropeless fishing gear permitting in the current draft regulations? Are you not the Division of Marine Fisheries?

How does exclusion of this permitting support the marine environment and specifically the state marine mammal?

No adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled in vertical lines at least once.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Sue Mayne  
Suffield, CT 06078

**From:** [Lisa Fox](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:18:31 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed draft regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are ship strikes and entanglements: no right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled twice or more. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining. Right whales could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you,  
Lisa Fox  
Lexington MA

Lisa Fox  
Lexington, MA 02421

**From:** [Kathleen McHendry](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:18:20 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

The time for debate and procrastination is over. A legitimate alternative is available and must be implemented now to avoid extinction. When the remaining numbers of a species are only in the hundreds that illustrates to me that decisive action is long past due. I would like to think that Massachusetts is an innovative and sympathetic state that would not want to be associated with, and possibly responsible for, the disappearance of such a beloved and majestic species. Please do the right thing.

Thank you.

Kathleen McHendry  
Belchertown, MA 01007

**From:** [Maresa Slater](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:18:09 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime. It is our responsibility to care for this earth and ALL of its inhabitants for generations to come. These are mammals, just like us. Imagine yourselves not being able to breathe because you are being held under the water and cannot come up for air, or slowly starving to death because you can't open your mouth to feed.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast., so why can't we use it on the East Coast?

During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF MUST consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thanking you, in advance, for your heartfelt consideration in helping both the livelihood of the fishermen and the existence of this incredible species to safely co-exist together.

Maresa Slater  
Vernon Rockville, CT 06066

**From:** [Rebecca Shea](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:17:56 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

At some point we, as a species on this planet make the necessary changes to keep our oceans, our greatest resource as diverse and habitable to as many species, especially large marine mammals, as possible. Please act on this now.

Thank you.

Rebecca Shea  
Gales Ferry, CT 06335

**From:** [Jen Flower](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:17:45 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

As a marine mammal veterinarian, scientist, and lifelong conservationist, I am writing to express my significant concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our a critically endangered marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime. We need to be part of the solution, and fast!

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale before it is too late for their species to recover.

Sincerely,  
Jen Flower, DVM, MS, Dipl. ACZM

Jen Flower  
East Lyme, CT 06333

**From:** [Rachel Payne](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:17:36 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please help the right whales. These amazing creatures are suffering a lot from rope entanglement. Please update the legislation to protect them.

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Rachel Payne  
Boston, MA 02119

**From:** [Kathy O'Rourke](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:17:24 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Ropeless gear is the RIGHT way to go for Right Whales.

Thank you.

Kathy O'Rourke  
South Deerfield, MA 01373

**From:** [Roberta Brunelle](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:17:12 PM

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Dept of Marine Fisheries,

Please consider a transition to ropeless gear, replacing the vertical lines which are causing so many tragic entanglements. It would help greatly if you could subsidize the fishermen with this.

Sincerely, Roberta Brunelle

Roberta Brunelle  
Vineyard Haven, MA 02568

**From:** [Camilla Warrender](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:16:59 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please save the right whales from extinction. It's so easy to do.

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Camilla Warrender  
Concord, MA 01742

**From:** [Clare Williman](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:16:51 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic Right Whales, our State Mammal, in danger of becoming extinct in our lifetimes.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

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Thank you.

Clare Williman  
Attleboro, MA 02703

**From:** [Alison Takemura](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:16:40 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please help save the right whale species for future generations.

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

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Thank you.

Alison Takemura  
Cambridge, MA 02141

**From:** [Deborah Shaw](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:16:29 PM

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Thank you.  
Deborah S. Shaw  
Dudley MA

Deborah Shaw  
Dudley, MA 01571

**From:** [David Matson](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:16:17 PM

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Please address this, I am very concerned about this and it should be a simple fix

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Thank you.

David Matson  
Maynard, MA 01754

**From:** [Tanya Munroe](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:16:04 PM

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Please do the right thing for the rights!

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Tanya Munroe  
Malden, MA 02148

**From:** [Kevin Lake](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:15:58 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement of right whales.

I am a life long Cape Codder, though now in my 70's I only live there part of the year and the rest of the time in western Mass. I've always been on the water and fished and hung out with lobster men and trawler guys. We always felt honored somehow when we saw a whale. The thought that anything we could control would harm themselves was always repulsive.

PLEASE: DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Kevin Lake  
Northampton, MA 01060

**From:** [Andree Clearwater](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:15:49 PM

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PLEASE!!!!

This is CRITICAL for preventing the needless extinction of yet another species.

Thank you.

Andrée Clearwater

Andree Clearwater  
Gill, MA 01354

**From:** [Nancy Matson](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:15:36 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales -- whales that will be eradicated without your swift action.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

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Thank you.

Nancy Matson  
Los Angeles, CA 90066

**From:** [Jennifer Smith](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:15:26 PM

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale. Once they are gone, we won't get them back!

Thank you.

Jennifer Smith  
Watertown, MA 02472

**From:** [Julianne Rhoads](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:15:19 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

PLEASE HEAR US! WE MUST TRANSITION TO ROPELESS GEAR NOW OR WE WILL LOSE THE LAST 400 RIGHT WHALES. THEY WILL GO EXTINCT. INACTION IS UNACCEPTABLE, THIS IS IMPORTANT TO EVERYONE, THE WORLD, THE PLANET. WE MUST PRIORITIZE OUR PLANET. IT IS OUR HOME. ROPELESS GEAR IS A VIABLE OPTION.

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

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Thank you.

Julianne Rhoads  
Chelsea, MA 02150

**From:** [Noreen Cullen](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:15:05 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales. I vigorously object to this needless danger to the North Atlantic Right Whale, who is on the edge of extinction, strictly through human irresponsibility. Have we no hearts for these magnificent wild creatures? We can change our terrible behavior and allow them to live on this planet that does not belong solely to humans. PLEASE do not allow these Right Whales to die off!

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

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Thank you.

Noreen Cullen  
Glastonbury, CT 06033

**From:** [Elizabeth Merrick](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:14:56 PM

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I am very concerned about the fact that right whales are nearing extinction due in large part to entanglement with ropes set by the fishing industry. Major steps must be taken immediately to stop this potential extinction from happening on our watch.

I'm writing specifically to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales. There are some aspects of the proposed regulations that are useful but there must also be attention to allowing and promoting ropeless fishing gear. I attended the recent virtual hearing on the proposed regulations, and it seemed the ropeless gear issue was simply off the table in terms of these regulations. This is unacceptable. This must happen now, as the right whale population is plummeting.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

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Thank you.

Elizabeth Merrick  
Somerville, MA 02144

**From:** [Kate Nelligan](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:14:42 PM

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Thank you.

Kate Nelligan  
Milford, NH 03055

**From:** [Linda Fraser](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:14:33 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing to express my frustration and concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Linda Fraser  
New Smyrna Beach, FL 32169

**From:** [Christine Cotton](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:14:21 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale. Please do everything you can to protect and save these beautiful creatures!

Thank you.

Christine Cotton  
Ellsworth, ME 04605

**From:** [Vinita Bhaskar](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:14:09 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello!

As a resident of MA for the past five years, I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

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Thank you,  
Vinita Bhaskar

Vinita Bhaskar  
Cambridge, MA 02141

**From:** [Bruce and Maureen DeNunzio](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:13:58 PM

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Thank you.

Bruce and Maureen DeNunzio  
Stamford, CT 06902

**From:** [Tony and Cindy Guarnieri](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:13:49 PM

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Thank you.

Tony and Cindy Guarnieri  
Stamford, CT 06905

**From:** [Tony and Cindy Guarnieri](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:13:42 PM

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Thank you.

Tony and Cindy Guarnieri  
Stamford, CT 06905

**From:** [Bruce and Maureen DeNunzio](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:13:36 PM

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Thank you.

Bruce and Maureen DeNunzio  
Stamford, CT 06902

**From:** [Tony and Cindy Guarnieri](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:13:22 PM

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Thank you.

Tony and Cindy Guarnieri  
Stamford, CT 06905

**From:** [Slowomir and irene Przybysz](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:13:12 PM

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Thank you.

Slowomir and irene Przybysz  
Wilton, CT 06897

**From:** [Tony and Cindy Guarnieri](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:13:03 PM

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Thank you.

Tony and Cindy Guarnieri  
Stamford, CT 06905

**From:** [Tony and Cindy Guarnieri](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:12:54 PM

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Thank you.

Tony and Cindy Guarnieri  
Stamford, CT 06905

**From:** [Tom Warzeka](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:12:45 PM

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Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

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Thank you.

Tom Warzeka  
East Providence, RI 02914

**From:** [Gail Fitzpatrick](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:12:37 PM

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I have now seen the dire statistics for the very few Right Whales that are left! There is no excuse for continuing with old practices when new ones have been proven effective.

We must reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

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Thank you.

Gail Fitzpatrick  
Carlisle, MA 01741

**From:** [Victoria Barstow](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:12:27 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales. I have been concerned about this dwindling population of right whales for decades.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

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Thank you.

Victoria Barstow  
Ashland, MA 01721

**From:** [Rita Rooney](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:12:21 PM

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Dear Massachusetts Representatives & Senators,

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Please, please save our fellow whale species—we are ONE and we need to be responsible to one another. I for one, don't want to live this life without North Right Atlantic Whales——please, we owe this responsibility to OUR CHILDREN AND GENERATIONS TO COME! Never underestimate the powers you have been selected to represent. Please vote with your Truest Self.

Thank you.  
Rita Rooney

Rita Rooney  
Brockton, MA 02301

**From:** [Shannon Lester](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:12:13 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing from Canada and I am deeply concerned about the future of the North Atlantic Right Whale. I grew up in Newfoundland and I love seafood but I am currently boycotting the fishing industry period until the oceans are safe. We MUST choose sustainability over profit and greed.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Shannon Lester  
, V1W 3W1

**From:** [Julian Knight](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:12:06 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

It is the responsibility of the government to ensure that our environment is not only sustained, but allowed to thrive. Failing to consider measures that have been proven successful and that are necessary to prevent the extinction of a species constitutes a failure of the government as a whole; if government and the DMF cannot ensure the longevity of the environment it claims to protect, then it has failed the people who have put it in place.

Thank you.

Julian Knight  
Cambridge, MA 02139

**From:** [Susan Triolo](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:11:58 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

I hope you will modify the regulations to save the right whales. There are less than 500 right whales left on the Earth. We must protect them. You can make that happen.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Susan Triolo  
Sunderland, MA 01375

**From:** [Shelagh Dean](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:11:48 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear DMF,

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales. To be honest I am devastated over the decline in this whale population and the thought of this animal and potentially others getting entangled and suffering severe injury or suffocation, as well as the fear they must feel is more than I can bear. They have a right to safety and survival as much as a human being does. Once we lose them, there is no going back. Please, please do something and support implementation of ripeness gear.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale. Please, please help and do something about this.

Thank you.

Shelagh Dean  
Tewksbury, MA 01876

**From:** [Dawn McDermott](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:11:35 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales!

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.  
Dawn McDermott

Dawn McDermott  
Centerville, MA 02632

**From:** [Susan Neri](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:11:22 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Massachusetts should set the example for all states and act quickly to save the magnificent right whales we are lucky to have in our waters.

We're counting on you to not be swayed by corporate interests and to help both the whales and show that ropefree fishing is sustainable.

Thank you.

Susan Neri  
West Brookfield, MA 01585

**From:** [Haley Enos](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:11:12 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing to express my deep concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Haley Enos  
Forestdale, MA 02644

**From:** [Gillian Woodman](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:10:48 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

This is a very important cause for me. I grew up going whale watching and the feeling of seeing a free whale jumping out of the water is something I cannot describe. I want this feeling to be available for generations to come and this is one step I feel is very important.

Thank you.

Gillian Woodman  
Stamford, CT 06902

**From:** [Elizabeth Fenner](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:10:42 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I hear ropeless fishing works! Please do the right thing here!

Elizabeth Fenner  
Los Angeles, CA 90018

**From:** [Lisa Haut](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:10:33 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing as the preservation of endangered species is extremely important to me.

Right whales are a majestic and unique species, and most certainly deserving of our respect and utmost efforts for their protection. These wonderful creatures are facing overwhelming challenges and assaults that diminish their numbers, decrease their reproductive rate, and endanger their survival.

It is incumbent upon us to recognize our human impact upon right whales and other precious marine life that threatens their very survival.

Of particular concern are fishing practices that result in right whale deaths. Currently there is widespread support for the use of ropeless gear as a way to help save right whales from extinction. Ropeless gear has a very high success rate at significantly reducing entanglement, injury and death for our right whale population.

A world without whales would be an unimaginable tragedy.  
Is this the legacy we wish to leave for our children and future generations?  
This cherished marine life legacy belongs to each and every American.

Please move decisively to ensure the survival of this cherished species!

The proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales. They are insufficient, and do not address the issue of entanglements.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future

and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you for hearing our voices in support of these cherished mammals.

Sincerely,  
Lisa Haut

Lisa Haut  
, 06610-1692

**From:** [Margaret Rice Moir](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:10:09 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing to express my concern about the dangers of rope lines to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, such as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would do.

This gentle giants enhance life for all of us.

Thank you.

Margaret Rice Moir  
Brewster, MA 02631

**From:** [Jeffrey Stewart](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:09:59 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom this may concern:

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

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Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you for hearing me on this issue of conservation.

Jeffrey Stewart  
Hingham, MA 02043

**From:** [Saundra Holloway](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:09:49 PM

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I write to you today to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

More than 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Please help save these whales, you have the power!  
Saundra Holloway

Saundra Holloway  
Plymouth, MA 02360

**From:** [Joyce Barringer](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:09:36 PM

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Thank you.

Joyce Barringer  
Cambridge, MA 02140

**From:** [Janell Curtis](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:09:27 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

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Thank you.

Janell Curtis  
Crestview, FL 32536

**From:** [Marcy Gordon](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:09:18 PM

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Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Marcy Gordon  
, 11233-3502

**From:** [Peter O'Hara](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:09:08 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Peter O'Hara  
Jupiter, FL 33458

**From:** [Samantha Smith](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:09:02 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

We can do better!! Look at how other nations are responding to this issue: ropeless gear has been used by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

It's time to do our part now too! DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Samantha Smith  
Easthampton, MA 01027

**From:** [Ann Woll](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:08:51 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales. It needs to be amended to include a pathway to using ropeless gear technology. Our children and grandchildren need us to be smart enough to preserve the right whales by taking advantage of technology that is successful around the world.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate the possibility for ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Ann Woll  
Cambridge, MA 02138

**From:** [Jim McFarlane](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:08:42 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales. These proposed regulations do not consider existing and mature on-demand fishing systems currently used around the world successfully. The State of California has acted to reduce entanglement occurrences by enacting new legislation that allows the implementation of this ropeless technology.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once. More than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require a vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This law must be revised to allow for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts. We strongly urge the examination of California legislation that addresses the use of new technology to mitigate whale entanglement incidence. Vertical lines are removed from the water column with the implementation of on-demand fishing gear. With no line, there is no chance of entanglement.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear. The draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a lethal threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

On-demand gear has been used successfully by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada, and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. Federal and state regulators have studied ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years. Multiple commercial companies have worked with fishers to manufacture gear that is used by fishermen to fish today. The foundational technology in on-demand systems is mature and in use since the mid-1960 era. Other sectors that have extensive operational successes include offshore oil and gas, defense, and oceanographic research.

DMF must implement regulations for on-demand technology to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is an established and mature technology providing the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. There will also be reductions in lost equipment that currently negatively the target catch and other non-targeted species.

Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Jim McFarlane  
Watsonville, CA 95076

**From:** [Meryl Brott](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:08:30 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales. We must do all we can to keep the right whales from going extinct. Let's move away from vertical lines ASAP!

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you thank you thank you! You are doing the "right" thing. You will be on the "right" side of history.

Sincerely yours,

Meryl Brott  
Allston, MA 02134

**From:** [Cathie Kwasneski](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:08:23 PM

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\*\*\*\*\*PLEASE BAN FISHING ROPES THAT HARM WHALES. THIS NEEDS TO OUTLAWED.

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

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DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Cathie Kwasneski  
Brodhead, WI 53520

**From:** [Jorie Heilman](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:08:15 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

I care deeply about the ocean and have devoted myself to teaching others about the wonders of marine science. So I have to urge you to take more definitive action to save the North Atlantic right whales. Entanglements need to stop in order to have them not go extinct. Ropeless gear seems like an answer that helps the whales without preventing fishermen from fishing. Closures alone won't be enough to save the species.

“In the short, medium, and long term we need to broaden the efforts that both countries are making to slow vessels down and reduce entanglement risk. Without that, it's too little, too late.”

-Michael Moore ,WHOI Research Scientist

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.  
Jorie

Jorie Heilman  
Lexington, MA 02421

**From:** [Leanne Morin](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:08:06 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Mahalo,

Leanne Morin

Leanne Morin  
Kailua, HI 96734

**From:** [Carole Smudin](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:07:53 PM

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Please I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Carole Smudin  
Bridgewater, MA 02324

**From:** [Carol Craig](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:07:44 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Please do everything you can to protect these precious animals before they go extinct. Their low numbers are very worrisome and I fear more must be done and soon.

Thank you.

Carol Craig  
Harwich Port, MA 02646

**From:** [Reesa St George](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:07:31 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

\*Please read the following concerning the very doable practice of using ropeless gear, instead of vertical buoy rope used in lobster fishing. There is no reason why right whales, particularly the calves and juveniles, need to be endangered when the solution is clear and right.\*

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Reesa St George  
Brookfield, CT 06804

**From:** [Leda Zimmerman](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:07:22 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing because North Atlantic right whales are at extreme risk of extinction, and I am concerned that the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks don't go far enough, fast enough to help save the species.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Leda Zimmerman  
Lexington, MA 02420

**From:** [David Miller](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:07:12 PM

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I have concerns about the regulations proposed to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements. No adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you for your support.

David Miller  
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

**From:** [Phoebe Mossey](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:07:04 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

For the past 17 years, no North Atlantic right whales have died from natural causes - ship strikes and gear entanglement are the leading cause of death for these critically endangered cetaceans. The vertical ropes that whales must navigate through pose a potentially deadly risk every day.

Entanglement in fishing gear has affected 85% of the NARW population, and many of these whales have been entangled twice or more. The population, which is estimated at only 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime if bold action is not taken immediately.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has already been successfully used by fishermen in many countries including Canada, Ireland, and the UK. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while preserving jobs for fishermen. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you for your consideration.

Phoebe Mossey  
South Yarmouth, MA 02664

**From:** [Elizabeth Mooney](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:07:01 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales. They are on the brink of extinction, so half measures are insufficient.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Elizabeth Mooney  
Portsmouth, NH 03801

**From:** [Amy Syrell](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:06:51 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale. Please do whatever you can and whatever seems possible to save the right whales and their young.

Thank you.

Amy Syrell  
South Glens Falls, NY 12803

**From:** [Annie Laurie](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:06:38 PM

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I am writing to express my deep concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

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Thank you.

Annie Laurie  
Dracut, MA 01826

**From:** [Marilyn Conrad](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:06:29 PM

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Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

We have NO right to harm them in any way ... All life matters!

Thank you.

Marilyn Conrad  
Worcester, MA 01607

**From:** [Kathleen Santry](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:06:09 PM

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366. There are 366 left. Let that sink in. We can DO SOMETHING to help right whales.

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

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Thank you.

Kathleen Santry  
Quincy, MA 02169

**From:** [S. Repp](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:06:01 PM

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Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

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Thank you for your consideration.

S. Repp  
Sun City Center, FL 33573

**From:** [Tim Glover](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:05:48 PM

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Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

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Thank you for your consideration.

Tim Glover  
Sebastian, FL 32976

**From:** [April Gornik](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:05:41 PM

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I live in Sag Harbor, an old whaling town which has much in common with your coast and history.

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

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Thank you.

April Gornik

April Gornik  
Sag Harbor, NY 11963

**From:** [Kathryn Flood](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:05:32 PM

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Kathryn Flood  
Stuart, FL 34997

**From:** [Danielle Hipworth](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:05:29 PM

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Thank you.

Danielle Hipworth  
Orlando, FL 32804

**From:** [Linda Shirey](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:05:26 PM

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

It hurts my heart to know that my great grandchildren probably will never see an elephant, a pangolin or a beautiful whale leaping into the air, not dismissing all the butterflies, bees and birds that are endangered. We will lose so much of the beauty of this earth if we do not stop our invasion of nature.

Thank you.

Linda Shirey  
Okeechobee, FL 34974

**From:** [Diana Cowans](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:05:13 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales. Humans do not have the right to do whatever they want - we must live within the rules and habits of nature if we want to preserve life on this planet. For the species that is supposedly the most intelligent, we act with extreme stupidity and greed. Please update the regulations to remove the ropes that impede the right whales migrations.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

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Thank you.

Diana Cowans  
, 34209-6786

**From:** [Jamie Dos santos](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:05:13 PM

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Thank you.

Jamie Dos santos  
Hollywood, FL 33019

**From:** [Sharon Goel](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:05:01 PM

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Thank you.

Sharon Goel  
Richmond Hill, NY 11418

**From:** [Chris McGinn](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:04:48 PM

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Thank you.

Chris McGinn  
New York, NY 10025

**From:** [Lisa DeMetz](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:04:31 PM

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Thank you.

Lisa DeMetz  
Fairport, NY 14450

**From:** [Karen Vayda](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:04:30 PM

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Karen Vayda  
Southampton, MA 01073

**From:** [Kenneth Brissette](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:04:26 PM

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Kenneth Brissette  
Boston, MA 02118

**From:** [Henry Gaudsmith](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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Henry Gaudsmith  
New York, NY 10009

**From:** [Nancy McBride](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:03:45 PM

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Nancy McBride  
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418

**From:** [Andrea Chisari](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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Andrea Chisari  
Mims, FL 32754

**From:** [B. R. Lemonik](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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B. R. Lemonik  
Mahopac, NY 10541

**From:** [Pamylle Greinke](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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Pamylle Greinke  
Peconic, NY 11958

**From:** [Mark Davis](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:02:54 PM

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Mark Davis  
Brooklyn, NY 11235

**From:** [Mark Davis](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:02:43 PM

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**From:** [Mark Davis](#)  
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**From:** [G. Paxton](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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G. Paxton  
New York, NY 10009

**From:** [Jackie Mills](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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Jackie Mills  
Kissimmee, FL 34746

**From:** [Jackie Mills](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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**From:** [Judith Zufi](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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Judith Zufi  
Coral Gables, FL 33156

**From:** [Samantha Turetsky](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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Thank you.

Samantha Turetsky  
Ormond Beach, FL 32176

**From:** [Dennis Rogers](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:01:37 PM

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Thank you.

Dennis Rogers  
Hubbardston, MA 01452

**From:** [Mary Shabbott](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:01:27 PM

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Thank you.

Mary Shabbott  
Punta Gorda, FL 33950

**From:** [Peter Brennan](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:01:03 PM

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Thank you.

Peter Brennan  
Palm Harbor, FL 34683

**From:** [Robert Schicker](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:00:49 PM

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Robert Schicker  
Crestview, FL 32539

**From:** [James Robertson](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:00:37 PM

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Thank you.

James Robertson  
Clearwater, FL 33763

**From:** [Lasha Wells](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:00:21 PM

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Thank you.

Lasha Wells  
Saint Petersburg, FL 33707

**From:** [Annu Henry](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 4:00:07 PM

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Annu Henry  
Sarasota, FL 34232

**From:** [Philip Klein](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 3:59:52 PM

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Philip Klein  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

**From:** [Mary Whiteman](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 11:19:38 PM

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Thank you.

Mary Whiteman  
Brandon, FL 33511

## Whale Safe USA

83 Maine Street, 6080 GSS  
Durham NH 03824

**Served by Email**

**18 December 2020**

TO: Kathleen Theoharides & Robert O'Connor, [kathleen.theoharides@state.ma.us](mailto:kathleen.theoharides@state.ma.us)  
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs  
Boston MA

Ronald Amidon, commissioner, [Ronald.Amidon@mass.gov](mailto:Ronald.Amidon@mass.gov),  
[Ronald.Amidon@state.ma.us](mailto:Ronald.Amidon@state.ma.us)  
Department of Fish and Game

Mark Tisa, director [Mark.Tisa@mass.gov](mailto:Mark.Tisa@mass.gov), [mark.tisa@state.mass.us](mailto:mark.tisa@state.mass.us)  
Division of Fish and Wildlife

Nazi McStupid , [dan.mckiernan@state.ma.us](mailto:dan.mckiernan@state.ma.us)  
Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Response to 2021 Proposed Fisheries Regulations and 60 Day Notice of Intent to Bring  
Suit Under ESA

To the Above Parties,

This is a notice from I, Whale Safe USA and its associates, that after the next 60 days or before that we will be prosecuting you in a US District Court to stop your 2021 licensing and regulating fisheries activities in ESA listed designated critical habitat. You are now proposing to adopt in 2021 regulations for the licensing of lobsterpot and gillnet fishing that will INCREASE your ongoing ESA § 9 prohibited taking of ESA Listed Species of whales and sea turtles in the Gulf of Maine. We are going to stop you from doing so by seeking a court order permanently enjoining each of you individually, the current crew of Division of Marine Fisheries employees and members of the Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission from further licensing and regulating lobsterpot and gillnet fishing in United States coastal waters from 2021 and onwards. We will also be seeking an order from the said court forcing you to expend the necessary funds to correct the injury that you have inflicted from 1973 to the current year on the ability of the Northern Right Whale species to recover from its endangered status.

It is an incontrovertible fact that in 2021 endangered whales and sea turtles will be entangled, killed and injured by individuals from their commercial and recreational deployment of fishing gear in the Gulf of Maine under license and complying with regulations adopted by the Division of Marine Fisheries in 2021. These said practices that will result in injuries inflicted on ESA Listed Species by you in 2021 and now they in themselves are constituting prohibited conduct pursuant to the ESA's § 9 take prohibitions without the need for further entanglement of any ESA protected wildlife by you in 2021.

Pursuant to our said prospective prosecution of you and your agents, we make the following claims, inclusively but not exclusively, of fact and law —

1. DMF's proposed licensing and regulating of lobsterpot and gillnet fisheries on its own in 2021 will constitute a prohibited activity under the ESA's § 9 taking prohibition and a continued prohibited taking of ESA Listed Species without any need for it to cause additional entanglements of ESA Listed Species in 2021.
2. The deployment in 2021 of vertical buoy ropes by any of DMF's licensed agents on any day of the year into the ESA listed designated critical habitat for the Northern Right Whale in the Gulf of Maine constitutes on its own a prohibited taking of ESA Listed whales and sea turtles.
3. Since all the 2020 agents of DMF that it licensed to conduct lobsterpot fishing are engaging in prohibited conduct pursuant to in ESA § 9 they cannot lawfully qualify for any fishing license to be issued to them by the DMF in 2021.
4. Your current planned promulgation of further regulations for your licensing and regulation the state's lobsterpot and gillnet fisheries in 2021 will INCREASE the likelihood of your licensed agents further entangling in their fishing gear ESA Listed Species of whales and sea turtles in 2021.
5. Having adopted a policy in the 1990's that the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act will not be enforced to protect ESA Listed Species of Whales and Sea Turtles, the Cooperative Agreement pursuant to ESA § 6 that you afterwards entered into with the National Marine Fisheries Service is unlawful. The monies paid to Massachusetts under this phony agreement since its signing constitutes a fraud on the People of United States by Daniel McKiernan, David Pierce & Kathleen Theoharides and other state employees.
6. The refusal by Kathleen Theoharides to enforce any MEPA review of the DMF's currently proposed fishing regulations for 2021 not only violates MEPA but is intentionally being done to aid and abet DMF employees to prevent enforcement of environmental laws on commercial fishys in order to allow them to kill & injure ESA Listed Species of Whales and Sea Turtles in 2021.
7. Anyone willing to go lobsterpot fishing in state waters in 2021 without using vertical buoy ropes or ground lines should be entitled to a full commercial fishing license over anyone else not willing to do so.
8. The Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission is engaging in prohibited conduct under ESA § 9(g) by directly aiding and abetting the DMF and its licensed agents to engage in the ESA § 9 prohibited conduct of the killing and entangling of ESA Listed Species of whales and sea turtles by their approving by their 2021 adoption of regulations requiring the use of 1700 lb vertical buoy ropes by all licensed agents of the Defendants.
9. Commercial fishermen that are criminals engaging in ESA § 9 prohibited conduct cannot lawfully vote as members of the MFAC since they are only going to affirm the continued ESA prohibited use of VBR.

10. Owing to the DMF's entangling and other ESA § 9 prohibited conduct regarding ESA Listed Species of whales and sea turtles prohibited since 1973 to the present time, the USDC is compelled in 2021 to enjoin the Defendants from any further licensing and regulation of commercial fisheries in ESA listed designated critical habitat for the Right Whale from now into the foreseeable future.

To evade prosecution for your omission and commission of crimes under the ESA since 1973 to the present day, you must —

1. NOT issue any further fishing licenses in 2021 to any holder of a lobsterpot and/or gillnet fishing license in 2020.
2. From 2021 forward ONLY issue licenses to do lobster fishing to individuals who agree not to use vertical buoy ropes or any other kind of unattended rope on their lobster fishing gear.
3. From 2021 forward you will NOT license anyone to engage in fishing using gillnets.

Be advised that Kathleen Theoharides and the rest of you jerks will be individually prosecuted under other state and federal statutes if you continue to act as scofflaws and continue your spree of environmental crimes.

In Peace,

/s/ Richard Maximus Strahan

---

Richard Max Strahan  
Chief Science Officer  
Whale Safe USA

**From:** [Shane Normand](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Attn: Dan Mckiernan  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 3:32:42 PM

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Dear Director Mckiernan,

My name is Shane Normand. I am from Gloucester, MA and have spent my entire life on the ocean from working on lobster boats to tuna fishing. I have personally witnessed the extent that lobstermen go through on a daily basis to preserve not only lobsters but all marine life. Currently I work for Cape Ann Lobstermen, a business which relies on the Massachusetts lobster fishery. The proposed amendment of closing state waters from February 1st to April 30th with such short notice would not only be devastating to the commercial lobstermen but it would affect the livelihood of the many shoreside workers that depend on this fishery.

A major issue with this proposed closure is where are the lobstermen supposed to store 800 traps as well as all of the gear that goes with them on such short notice? It is baffling to me that in just over a months time you expect these men to have all of their gear out of the water especially after the year that they have endured. Because of the pandemic the lobster price has just finally made a comeback, and now that they are finally starting to bounce back and make some money you expect them to pull their traps out of the water with very little scientific evidence that the gear is harming whales.

My opinion is that if the DMF wants to reduce vertical lines in the water why don't they do something about the 6000 recreational permits. I fully understand that the income from the recreational permits is extremely helpful for the DMF. But I believe they could offset this income by slightly increasing the cost for a trap tag for the commercial guys. It is astonishing how much recreational gear is left in the water, not only is this gear left in the water at an alarming rate a vast amount of the gear is unmarked and not the correct rope to be using. I have personally seen recreational gear tangled in our lines as we haul. To me it makes a lot more sense to put a limit on recreational fisheries than commercial, the commercial fishermen have their livelihoods at stake.

I think it would be best for the DMF to hold off on making any decisions until some proper research is done. There is not nearly enough scientific evidence to show that this closure would even be beneficial for the whales. It is shocking to me that such a rash decision that affects the livelihoods of so many men and women could be made so abruptly. I fully agree that we need to protect all marine life but I do not believe this closure is the way to go. I want to thank you for your time as well as all you do to keep our Massachusetts fisheries strong.

Best,

Shane Normand  
Manager  
Cape Ann Lobstermen

**From:** [olivia.stohr](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** attn: Dan McKiernan  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 11:11:10 AM  
**Attachments:** [Garrett Loparto to Dan McKiernan.docx](#)

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Mr. Dan McKiernan,

My name is Garrett Loparto. My brother, Jeremy, and I are both second generation OCLMA lobstermen. I am writing to you on the regulation change proposal. As lobstermen, the most conservation minded fishery, we fully support saving the north Atlantic right whales. From 2014 statistics, science has already proved trawls and gillnet ends are way more likely to entangle a whale. Why change?

One very troubling proposal is that any vessel larger than 29ft deal must fish trawls. OCLMA is predominantly comprised of 3 fleets, Provincetown (about 90% single trap fishermen), Nauset (99% singles), and Chatham (about 80%). Previously, the fleets used to fish out of much smaller boats until a few guys with larger vessels, 43ft, trawled up. This created major safety issues. The sea conditions we face, like no other in the state, are dangerous enough. Forcing trawls onto vessels that are unsuitable is asking for a tragedy. I say unsuitable because of safety. When fishing out of a skiff, if you get hung on a trawl, all your gear gets put at its breaking point, your vessel can rapidly roll over. It only takes one wave, and a few seconds. I know this because I started in a skiff, moved to a 33 foot, and would like to eventually fish out of a 43ft boat. We started at the bottom, what we could afford, and invested in a larger vessel, 33ft, as soon as we could. On three different occasions, I ended up over the rail of my small boat. I cut myself out once and my wife got me out the other two times. Putting a size limitation on the boat is ridiculous when to effectively fish trawl you need a 43 ft boat or better. Fishing a small boat around trawls is a death sentence. I know from living it. You cannot compare Outer Cape to Cape Cod Bay (the bath tub) and areas all the way up to north shore, given the sea conditions we face and an inlet that's as mean as can be.

Outer Cape has taken more whale safety measures than anywhere with line markings and most of all, TRAP CUTS. We put measures in place to know if OUR AREA catches a whale. IF our gear did entangle whales, then do something. It is NOT a proven problem in our area. We are talking about a fishery comprised 90% of single trap fishermen, who have built their business solely around a single trap fishery, fishing gear that has never killed a right whale. ANYONE who fishes single traps knows trawls and singles do not mix. Creating new regulations just because Max Strahan and some NGO groups pick on us because we are the little guy is totally unacceptable. Do you see them badgering Maersk? NO, because they have more money than GOD. Let's face the facts, we all know single traps are not the issue and being the small guy that is an easy target is the issue. I speak for my FAMILY, the whole nauset fleet.

Thank you,

Garrett Loparto

**From:** [Kate O'Connell](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** AWI Comments on the New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 2:56:37 PM  
**Attachments:** [AWI comments Mass DMF right whale Dec 2020 FINAL.pdf](#)  
[ATT00001.txt](#)

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Attached please find AWI's submission regarding the proposed regulations affecting trap and gillnet fishing.

Thank you, and may you have a safe and happy holiday season.

Kate O'Connell  
Marine Wildlife Consultant, AWI

**From:** [DAVID DEMSKI](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** closure  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 1:36:27 PM

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my name is David Demski am writing a second time and am in favor of a closure. The latest info you are receiving is not accurate. The guys complaining the most have biggest boats and move gear the fastest saying there losing 50 percent of income is not true we dont start catching until April. These people have conch/fish pot permits but a few never fished for any of those species this year??? Then you have people writing to you from south coast direct seafood the customers who have no stake in the fishery complaining and have no idea what there talking about. The closure happened in area one how many fisherman went out of business in Plymouth and Sandwhich none they adapted to the change and smart fisherman will survive not older lazy fisherman. It a great thing to not only give the bottom a rest from fishing but get the none tagged gear out and ghost gear my only worry would be how is the state going to enforce it especially in the winter?

**From:** [saklob@aol.com](mailto:saklob@aol.com)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Comments pertaining to Mass state waters closures  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 1:03:10 PM

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**CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

Dear Mr. McKiernan,

Please accept these comments with regards to the New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet fishing. First, the proposed regulations regarding using 1700lb breaking strength rope and contrivances and limiting the diameter of ropes allowed to be used for endlines is a reasonable step that the commercial fishing industry should be able to handle. As is pointed out, there is peer-reviewed research that found that serious injury and mortality to North Atlantic Right Whales (NARW) is reduced by 72% by limiting rope strength to 1700lbs breaking strength.

Second, however, I do not support the broad brushed approach to closing all of Massachusetts State Waters for a 3 month (and possibly longer) period. As a fisherman, we have been told that management decisions are based on the best available science. This proposed rule (decision) is not based on science at all. It is purely being proposed and enacted based on lawsuits and misinformed and agenda-driven environmental organizations. Buzzards Bay (BB) and in between the Elizabethan Islands and Martha's Vineyard (MV) rarely have NARW sightings. And this area is of vital importance to lobstermen during the exact 3 months that are proposed to be closed. As we know, lobsters are only able to be caught on a temporospatial basis. For BB and north of MV, lobsters are able to be commercially trapped during a time that we see the highest prices for them. This adds up to being a very important area and time for commercial lobstermen to make a significant portion of their living.

Through management action after management action, fishermen have been boxed into specific fisheries based on historical effort coinciding with often arbitrary control dates. This has significantly limited a fisherman's abilities to simply switch to another fishery when necessary; whether it be because of regulations, closures, low abundance of species during certain times of year, or conversely high abundance of species during certain times of year. Therefore, an action such as this broad brush approach, not based on science but rather political pressure, will critically hinder the ability of the few remaining full time lobstermen to make a living.

Further, because these lobstermen will still have to fish to try and make up a portion of their income that is being taken away from them, the ones with federal permits will be forced to fish in federal waters during this time. This creates a myriad of problems. Lobstermen from Rhode Island (myself included) fish in federal waters and sometimes get near the Mass State waters line on the federal side. The Mass lobstermen that now have to fish in federal waters will have to compete with the fishermen that are already there which reduces the commercial viability of all operations involved (including non-Mass fishermen). In addition, lobster gear will be aggregated in the federal waters areas near the Mass state line and therefore have a "fencing" affect. This action of closing Mass state waters arbitrarily may possibly have the opposite effect on reducing serious injury and mortality of whales by pushing lobster gear *towards* where NARW *might* actually be during this time. As we know from the sightings data, NARW are not very common to the west of Cuttyhunk and MV but nonetheless, there may actually end up being more lobster gear out in federal waters during this time.

For the sake of the remaining commercial lobstermen in both Mass and RI, I strongly urge you to consider not enacting a broad brush regulation based on fear-mongering, political pressure, and hidden agendas. A more targeted area (as was done originally for Cape Cod Bay) would make more sense and would allow commercial lobstermen who depend on BB, north MV, and Nomans Land to make a living to continue to do so. Thank you

Sincerely,  
Greg Mataronas  
RI Commercial Fisherman

**From:** [C Kennedy](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Comments: New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Thursday, December 17, 2020 6:28:03 PM

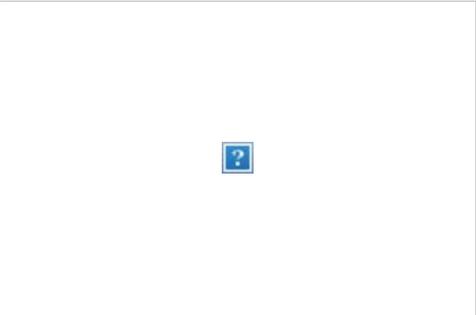
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Dear Director McKiernan,

Thank you for this opportunity to address the proposed regulation changes for trap and gillnet fishing in Mass Territorial Waters. I generally support these proposed changes and applaud the Commonwealth for coming up with realistic regulations which can mitigate the potential for losses to protected whales due to Mass territorial fixed gear.

I strongly support the move to limit buoy lines to 3/8" lines or less. This move will have a significant positive impact on limiting mortality on protected whale species. I am a longtime commercial inshore lobsterman, conservation administrator and supporter of reasonable measures to protect marine mammals from human induced mortality. Just last week I investigated the death of a young male humpback whale which died from fixed gear entanglement (<https://vineyardgazette.com/news/2020/12/05/humpback-whale-found-washed-norton-point>). There is no need for these continued whale deaths if we use common sense.



### [The Vineyard Gazette - Martha's Vineyard News | Humpback Whale Found Washed up at Norton Point](#)

The carcass of a North Atlantic humpback whale was discovered on the shore of Norton Point beach by a passerby Friday. The carcass was carried east by a passing storm this weekend and remained in the surf on Monday midday.

[vineyardgazette.com](http://vineyardgazette.com)

The notion that ropeless gear technology is the answer is a misnomer. It is expensive and carries a lot of unanswered questions regarding fixed and mobile gear conflicts, let alone the inevitable issue of conflicts with other fixed gear fishermen. The answer to solving the issue with Right Whale entanglement begins with reducing rope diameters. Whales will encounter this gear but will be able to break the buoy lines which will ultimately save their lives. I have seen too many needless whale deaths in my time as a beach manager and lobsterman. It is time to come up with reasonable solutions which save the whales and save the lobster

industry. It is achievable but will take compromise. I believe your proposed regulations are achievable and responsible.

With thanks and gratitude,  
Chris Kennedy

**From:** [Kurt Lieber](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Director Daniel McKiernan, regarding amendments to the lobster fishery to protect Right whales  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 1:57:12 PM

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Hello,

In regards to the proposed changes to the lobster trap fishery that is responsible for a high percentage of Right whale entanglements, I strongly feel that the proposed restrictions to the areas that currently allow lobster traps to be set in is way overdue. These animals are on the brink of extinction, mostly due to entanglements in active and abandoned commercial fishing gear. We need to do all we can to allow the Right whales to live out their lives without continually coming in contact with this gear. A short-term loss of income for the lobster fishery is a small sacrifice to make to ensure these magnificent and sentient beings will be around for future generations to appreciate and enjoy.

Kurt Lieber

President and Founder: Ocean Defenders Alliance

Ventura, California

**From:** [Cheryl Holdren](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 8:08:20 AM

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

null

Dear Director McKiernan,

As a resident of Massachusetts, where the ocean forms an integral part of our state identity, keeping our beaches, coasts, and marine species and habitats healthy matters deeply to me. North Atlantic right whales, which swim in Massachusetts' waters, are one of our most at-risk species.

First, I'd like to thank you and the Division of Marine Fisheries for drafting a strong proposed rule. In particular, I was glad to see the inclusion of more seasonal closures to fishing during the time of year that right whales are likely to be in the area. This is the type of bold action we'll need to save these whales.

I write today to urge you to include language that implements a pathway for the development and implementation of ropeless fishing gear. We know that the best way to prevent entanglements is to remove rope from the water, and the development and adoption of ropeless gear will provide a long term solution to this problem.

Sincerely,  
Cheryl Holdren  
11 Old Colony Pl  
Falmouth, MA 02540

**From:** [Susan Fredkin](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Thursday, December 17, 2020 11:24:28 PM

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Susan Fredkin  
49 Marion St Apt 4C  
Brookline, MA 02446

**From:** [Barbara Haack](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Thursday, December 17, 2020 8:53:06 PM

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

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Sincerely,  
Barbara Haack  
102 Main St  
West Newbury, MA 01985

**From:** [Marcia Haas](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Thursday, December 17, 2020 8:08:50 PM

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

null

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Sincerely,  
Marcia Haas  
170 Adams St  
Agawam, MA 01001

**From:** [Ann Hicks](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 8:44:50 AM

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

null

Dear Director McKiernan,

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Sincerely,  
Ann Hicks  
19 Cider Mill Rd  
North Brookfield, MA 01535

**From:** [McKiernan, Dan \(FWE\)](#)  
**To:** [Kaplan, Julia \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: New protected species regulations Attention Daniel McKiernan  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 9:39:08 AM

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**From:** gail waitt <[seaflea04@yahoo.com](mailto:seaflea04@yahoo.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 18, 2020 9:36 AM  
**To:** McKiernan, Dan (FWE) <[dan.mckiernan@mass.gov](mailto:dan.mckiernan@mass.gov)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: New protected species regulations Attention Daniel McKiernan

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Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** gail waitt <[seaflea04@yahoo.com](mailto:seaflea04@yahoo.com)>  
**Date:** December 18, 2020 at 9:29:10 AM EST  
**To:** [marine.fish@mass.gov](mailto:marine.fish@mass.gov)  
**Subject:** Fwd: New protected species regulations Attention Daniel McKiernan

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** gail waitt <[seaflea04@yahoo.com](mailto:seaflea04@yahoo.com)>  
**Date:** December 18, 2020 at 8:50:02 AM EST  
**To:** [marine.fish@mass.gov](mailto:marine.fish@mass.gov)  
**Subject:** New protected species regulations

Dear DMF,

My name is Carl Waitt and I have been a commercial lobsterman since 1985 and a student license before then. After listening to the hearings on both nights this is what I have to say.

From what we have heard the right whales are entangled with heavy lines used in off shore fishing and in used Canadian fishing gear. It makes no

sense to close state waters and leave federal water untouched. Cruise ships, cargo ships, pollution ect... are killing and injuring a lot more whales ect than any in shore lobsterman fishing where the closures are proposed to be.

Over the years I have been put out of the Gill netting because of all the restrictions especially taking away the most profitable months and the regulations never being relaxed. I threw out thousands of dollars worth of Gill nets and concentrated soley on commercial lobstering and slowly that's been getting harder to do over the years.

Why can't the break away lines and links at least be given a shot. It's new and needs to be studied. Ropeless fishing will not work because it would be to congested. Right now four guys can set over one trawl and that's with buoys! The cost of this crazy ropeless fishing would put us out of business, let alone when we get a nor'easter all that gear will be tangled up altogether and be a real horror show to deal with.

If these closures take place we will miss out on the spring fishing which pre COVID can bring prices of \$11.00 per lb. We will not have income to pay our bills and feed our families. Talking to a Canadien lobsterman, I learned that during there closure they get subsidized 800.00 per week and some get even more.

We all love whales , but fixing what is happening to the right whales needs to be shared by all involved! Not just the inshore commercial lobsterman.

Thank you,  
Carl and Gail Waitt  
Sent from my iPad

**From:** [McKiernan, Dan \(FWE\)](#)  
**To:** [Kaplan, Julia \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Glenn, Robert \(FWE\)](#); [Burke, Erin \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: plan  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 8:05:43 AM

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**From:** CHERYL ANN SOUZA <jlobsters@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 17, 2020 8:01 PM  
**To:** McKiernan, Dan (FWE) <dan.mckiernan@mass.gov>  
**Subject:** plan

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Dear Director McKiernan,

I am writing on behalf of the lobster men who will lose the right to fish single traps under this plan. I realize why it is in the plan. To try to get the take permit that the judge wants a few must be sacrificed for the good of the industry but I ask you to reconsider.

Since the fact is when the whales are here our traps are out of the water so the singles are not a problem. The DMF makes sure that we only set after the wales have left.

We know that every one wants less vertical lines in the water but singles are safer for both fishermen and whales. I have been caught in singles before and I could hold them back until I could get out of it but if it were a trawl I would not be here. A whale has never died from being caught in a single trap but fishermen have died from being caught in trawls.

Along with loosing a way of life the cost will make it hard for some of us to continue in the business. After the cost of line (15,000 to 25,000) we will have to change our boats and hire a crew which will cost us more money. All we are asking for is the right to fish the way we always have.

Bill Souza

**From:** [McKiernan, Dan \(FWE\)](#)  
**To:** [Kaplan, Julia \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Right Whale Closure Proposal  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 12:22:27 PM

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**From:** mark.ring3@verizon.net <mark.ring3@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 18, 2020 12:10 PM  
**To:** McKiernan, Dan (FWE) <dan.mckiernan@mass.gov>  
**Subject:** Right Whale Closure Proposal

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Director Dan McKinnon,

Dan,I am submitting comment on the DMF proposal to extend the state waters closure to the New Hampshire line for Feb.through April.I am opposed to this proposal for the primary reason that this closure will have Zero positive impact on the Right Whale population.To take this action to appease groups that only want to achieve one end result is unfair to an industry that has done more to protect these whales than any other fishery in the world.I understand DMFs position but I hope the plight of the fishermen is given consideration on this sensitive matter.If I can be of any help moving forward feel free to reach out. Happy Holidays to you and your entire staff. Sincerely,

Mark Ring

**From:** [gail waitt](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: New protected species regulations Attention Daniel McKiernan  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 9:29:19 AM

---

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Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** gail waitt <seaflea04@yahoo.com>  
**Date:** December 18, 2020 at 8:50:02 AM EST  
**To:** marine.fish@mass.gov  
**Subject:** New protected species regulations

Dear DMF,

My name is Carl Waitt and I have been a commercial lobsterman since 1985 and a student license before then. After listening to the hearings on both nights this is what I have to say.

From what we have heard the right whales are entangled with heavy lines used in off shore fishing and in used Canadian fishing gear. It makes no sense to close state waters and leave federal water untouched. Cruise ships, cargo ships, pollution ect... are killing and injuring a lot more whales ect than any in shore lobsterman fishing where the closures are proposed to be.

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Why can't the break away lines and links at least be given a shot. It's new and needs to be studied. Ropeless fishing will not work because it would be to congested. Right now four guys can set over one trawl and that's with buoys! The cost of this crazy ropeless fishing would put us out of business, let alone when we get a nor'easter all that gear will be tangled up altogether and be a real horror show to deal with.

If these closures take place we will miss out on the spring fishing which pre COVID can bring prices of \$11.00 per lb. We will not have income to pay our bills and feed our families. Talking to a Canadien lobsterman, I learned that during there closure they get subsidized 800.00 per week and some get even more.

We all love whales , but fixing what is happening to the right whales needs to be shared by all involved! Not just the inshore commercial lobsterman.

Thank you,

Carl and Gail Waitt

Sent from my iPad

# LOBSTERLIFT

Director McKiernan at  
251 Causeway Street  
Suite 400, Boston  
MA 02114

December 18, 2020

Director McKiernan,

My name is Cormac Hondros-McCarthy and I am writing to ask you to implement a pathway for permitting ropeless fishing in MA waters.

Ted Zhu and I started LobsterLift based out of Lowell, MA. We are developing a low cost ropeless device aimed at giving inshore fishers the ability to keep fishing without the worry of having their gear become a cause for the death of a North Atlantic right whale, a species severely wounded.

LobsterLift started at an international oceanic environmental prototype competition in Malaysia, where we first learned about the issue from a professor who also works as a Maine fisherman. He told us about the ongoing protests between the environmental groups and fishers due to the regulations imposed on the fisheries in order to help conserve the North Atlantic right whale population, and other at-risk marine life. We thought we could help, and we were excited to take on the challenge. The concept was born at Conservation X Labs' challenge, and from there we worked on the design, and applied for grants to allow us to leave our full time jobs for the ability to work on something truly inspiring for us. Up until 6 months ago, we worked on evenings, and weekends to bring our concepts closer towards something which could be tested by fishermen, where we could get their valuable feedback. We were then awarded the highly competitive NOAA Bycatch Reduction Engineering Program (BREP) grant in 2020. Things started to move much more quickly, and we have since taken our concept and brought it out into the ocean with an inshore Gloucester, MA fisherman to fish with. Seeing the gear fall off the side of the boat, and return for it a few days later to see it at the surface was an experience I will never forget - right next to the first time I saw a whale in person on my first whale watch.

It takes a lot to change a century old method fishing method, and most fisherman aren't interested in taking part in the change, but today we are asking you to run with us on the journey of switching to ropeless gear. Creating a system to allow fishers to fish with ropeless gear isn't easy, but is necessary if we are going to act fast to reduce the destruction that we have continued to play a major role in with the population of the North Atlantic right whale.

The LobsterLift is designed as a truly ropeless system: it does not use a stored away endline, but instead inflates a balloon to create enough buoyancy to raise the trap from the ocean floor up to the surface. By

designing it this way, we remove a great deal of complexity for the fisher, who would otherwise have to carefully repack or recoil a rope before sending the trap back overboard. You can set a timer for deployment and drop it off the boat--it's as simple as that. Alternatively, you can also have the system fitted with an acoustics system which would allow you to retrieve it on demand. We are working with many acoustics manufacturers, and are just about finished integrating the first one into the LobsterLift.

LobsterLift has been deployed and retrieved over 100 times, and that number will continue to grow exponentially over the coming year as we continue testing. We have had the opportunity to test our device in waters off of Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Georgia . We have proven its reliability at its current phase with a 100% retrieval rate of success. Our system is designed from the start to be low cost: we understand that one of the challenges posed on using pop-up gear is the price tag, and we bear that in mind to make sure we can work tirelessly to help keep fishers on the water while solving the age-old problem of marine entanglements. As we get closer to manufacturing this system at a larger scale, our units will be available for ~\$200 (timer version) to \$400 (acoustic version) each and can be easily fitted to trawls, reducing the overall cost per trap to the fisher.

Director McKiernan, you have the authority to issue permits on an as-needed basis, we request that the Division reconsider its decisions and develop a pathway for permitting ropeless gear in MA waters during these upcoming rule makings. We are working hard to help save a species while keeping fishers on the water. Please take this opportunity to work towards a solution to save the North Atlantic right whales, not against it.

We look forward to your reply, and hope to speak more with you in this matter directly.

Thank you for your time,  
Cormac Hondros-McCarthy & LobsterLift Team



## Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association

8 Otis Place, Scituate, MA 02066

781.545.6984

December 15, 2020

Sent via: [dan.mckiernan@state.ma.us](mailto:dan.mckiernan@state.ma.us)

Director McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400,  
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Director McKiernan,

On behalf of its 1800 members, the Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association (MLA) respectfully submits this letter of comment to the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (MADMF) on the draft regulations that are designed to reduce the risk of endangered right whales becoming entangled in fixed fishing gear and reduce the potential harm posed by fixed fishing gear if a right whale interacts with it.

The Massachusetts commercial lobster industry is a historic and iconic part of our community in the Commonwealth which is being threatened by more than the right whale litigation. Every day the commercial lobster industry is faced with market uncertainty due to the ongoing right whale litigation as well as the archaic laws that are working against each other all the while burdening the hard working men and women in the commercial lobster industry.

Established in 1963, the MLA is a member-driven organization that accepts and supports the interdependence of species conservation and the members' collective economic interests. The MLA continues to work conscientiously through the management process with the MADMF, Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries and National Marine Fisheries Service to ensure the continued sustainability and profitability of all the resources in which our fishermen are engaged in.

The Massachusetts commercial lobster industry employs thousands of individuals who earn their living on the sea. In 2018, the 712 active MA commercial lobstermen in State Waters (0-3 miles) harvested 10,712,923 lbs. with an ex-vessel value of \$51,957,676.55 and an overall economic

impact to the local economy of 234 million dollars while only fishing approximately 292,000 lobster pots.

Also, there are 75 active MA commercial lobstermen in Federal waters (3-200 miles) harvesting 7,456,237 lbs. with an ex-vessel value of \$36,162,749.00 and an overall economic impact to the local economy of 165 million dollars while only fishing 111,000 lobster pots. The total economic impact of the collective commercial lobster fleet in Massachusetts is 399 million dollars to the local economy.

On April 30, 2020, the court Order given was a death sentence to the commercial lobster industry and fixed gear fisheries, not just in the Commonwealth, but the entire United States of America by putting an unrealistic timeline to acquire the Incidental Take Permit (ITP) mandating that the *“Plaintiff may renew his motion for an injunction..if Defendants have not obtained an Incidental Take Permit within ninety (90) days of this Order.”* (Case 1:19-cv-10639-IT)

The implications of this Order, should the ultimate goal be reached by the Plaintiff, will be the end to the entire fixed gear fisheries as we know it today, and it will all have stemmed from this Order right here in the Commonwealth. We do not want this to be the end of an era when our commercial fishermen are doing more than anyone, anywhere in the world, to save these animals.

On July 29, 2020 Document 211 was file (Commonwealth) Civil Action No. 19-cv-10639-IT - RICHARD MAX STRAHAN, Plaintiff v. SECRETARY, MASSACHUSETTS EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS, et al., “Defendants Secretary of the Massachusetts Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs and Director of the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries hereby move for a stay of further proceedings in this case until the process required by the Court’s April 30, 2020, Order is completed.....A stay will promote judicial economy and orderly proceedings, allow the Massachusetts Defendants to devote their scarce resources conservation planning in accordance with the Act, and no party will be prejudiced.” <https://lobstermen.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Mtn-to-Stay.pdf> Max Strahan immediately filed an Opposition to Motion to Stay Further Proceedings on 8/12/2020

In conjunction with these legal proceedings the MLA recognizes that the MADMF staff have been working diligently to acquire the Massachusetts State Waters Lobster Fishery Designation (MA Designation) on the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) List of Fisheries separate from the Northeast Lobster Trap Pot Fishery based on the suite of proposed

regulations that have recently been brought out to Public Hearings on December 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. The MA Designation is a critical component to the MADMF acquiring the ITP mandated the Judge.

The MLA encourages the MADMF to highlight all the right whale conservation that the MA lobster fleet has endured over the last several decades. The Massachusetts commercial lobstermen and MLA has been actively engaged in the conservation of right whales for over 30 years and remains committed to staying the course.

### **Timeline**

1935- International ban on hunting whales goes into effect  
1970- North Atlantic Right Whales listed as endangered  
1996- NOAA implements the Large Whale Take Reduction Plan  
1997-MA requirement for “breakaway” features in gillnets and trap/pot buoy lines  
Seasonal ban in Cape Cod Bay for gillnets and on use of floating rope between pots  
1997-Dedicated aerial surveys begin in Cape Cod Bay  
2004 – Year-round ban on floating rope between traps in Cape Cod Bay  
2007 - Year-round ban on use of floating rope between traps statewide  
2014- MA Restricted Area is created – A three-month closure Feb-April to 3,071 sq. miles  
2015 - 3 month (Feb/Apr) closure to all pots/traps in the MA Restricted Area  
2016 – 3 month (Feb/Apr) closure to all pots/traps in the MA Restricted Area  
2017 – 3 month (Feb/Apr) closure to all pots/traps in the MA Restricted Area **PLUS** 4-day extension of the gear closure in Cape Cod Bay  
2018 - 3 month (Feb/Apr) closure to all pots/traps in the MA Restricted Area **PLUS** a 15-day extension of the gear closure and speed restriction (10 mph) for small vessels in Cape Cod Bay  
2019- 3 month (Feb/Apr) closure to all pots/traps in the MA Restricted Area  
2020 - 3 month (Feb/Apr) closure to all pots/traps in the MA Restricted Area, MLA members deploy 700 coils of whale safe 1700lb weak red rope.

It is no secret that MADMF has decades of data to back up the ongoing reduction of the lobster fishery here in Massachusetts with a 100% MANDATORY reporting they can show the downward effort trend for the MA lobster fleet. Currently, in Massachusetts there are less than 750 active lobstermen fishing an average of 480 pots and most of them are fishing 5-30 pot trawls with an estimated 20-25 permits retiring every year.

The MA lobster fishery in 2007 had 1,361 permits and as of 2018 there were 1,081 permits issued and 787 being fished as well as a reduction of 280 lobster permits with no new permits being issued. The commercial lobster industry in Massachusetts deploys approximately 80,000 vertical lines and the numbers are going down as new conservation management comes online in early 2021.

Currently, Massachusetts lobstermen are still reducing effort through the ongoing lobster pot reductions in Lobster Management Area (LMA) LMA 2 and LMA 3 and these real numbers in reduction need to be quantified and given a conservation credit. Today there are approximately 72 active lobstermen in MA LMA 2 and approximately 60 active lobstermen in Outer Cape Cod (OCC), how much further can they be reduced in effort to remain whole when they are continually paying a conservation tax every time a tag is transferred. It should also be noted that; every transfer in LMA 2, LMA 3 and OCC there is also a 10% conservation lobster pot tax which also equates to even a further reduction in effort.

## **New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing**

### **Fixed Gear Closures**

#### **1. Commercial Trap Gear Closure (322 CMR 12.04, 12.08, and 12.11).**

The MLA does **NOT SUPPORT** the DMF's proposal to extend the existing February 1 – April 30 Large Whale Seasonal Trap Gear Closure (north and east of Cape Cod) to all waters under the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth. The commercial lobstermen here in the Commonwealth are already doing more than any other state to protect right whales.

The proposed closure will negatively impact the Southern New England (SNE) state waters fleet as these are the months when they land the largest portion of their catch. In SNE this closure is unwarranted as their effort has been reduced drastically, minimal sightings in state waters with no high aggregations of right whales. This is also true for the waters north of the MA Restricted Area where there are minimal sightings in state waters and no high aggregations of right whales.

This proposed closure will have a negative economic impact on the Commonwealths' commercial lobstermen's ability to support their families. Should the state implement this closure, unemployment must be made available to the entire commercial lobster fleet and their crew alike. There are not many people that can afford a loss of income (shutdown) for 3 months and an additional loss of 2 months on either end (setting/removing) that could survive.

Furthermore, should the State move forward with this regulation and the fleet be mandated to remove their gear by Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>, there needs to be as much notice given to the fleet as quickly as possible so to avoid jams at the docks with densely populated harbors. We are asking for discretion and leeway with gear removal as the weather is getting worse and the days are getting shorter.

## **Trap Gear Configuration Modifications and Restrictions**

### **1. 1,700-lb Breaking Strength Contrivance (322 CMR 12.02 and 12.06).**

The MLA understands the need for a reasonable amount of the 1700lb. weak contrivance and does **NOT SUPPORT** any more weak contrivances than what the federal plan will impose. The commercial lobstermen here in the Commonwealth will yet again be doing more than the rest of the

lobster fishery and the weak contrivances for the vertical buoy lines needs to be in line with the federal plan. Many MLA members fish both state and federal waters and these requirements need to line up so they can move in and out of state waters into federal waters without changing out their entire endline.

### **2. Vertical Buoy Line Maximum Diameter for Commercial Trap Gear (322 CMR 12.06).**

The MLA **SUPPORTS** the DMF's proposal that all vertical buoy lines affixed to commercial trap gear have a diameter not greater than 3/8". (Vertical Buoy) On March 6, 2020, the MADMF submitted the Commonwealths conservation proposal to reach the 60% conservation target set forth by the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). This proposal was taken out to Public Hearings for input from the industry and will further aid in the right whale's recovery. A conservation measure that is noteworthy is the prohibition on the use of any lines greater than 3/8" for vertical lines in state waters, which was supported by the MLA.

The MLA and Lobster Foundation of Massachusetts (LFoM) were granted a Massachusetts Environmental Trust grant to develop a 3/8" 1700lb weaker whale safer red rope which will be deployed this fishing season for field testing. The ropes 1700lb breaking strength basis came from the New England Aquariums Study *Effects of fishing rope strength on the severity of large whale entanglements* by Amy Knowlton et. al. where they "found entangled in tested rope strengths below 7.56 kN or 1700 lbsf, implementation of RBS ropes would likely reduce the probability of mortality and suffering" Kowlton et.al. As of July 2, 2020 the LFoM has distributed 700 plus coils of the 1700lb whale safer red rope to be field tested this year.

In November 2020, the LFoM received a grant to further their efforts on developing the 3/8" 1700lb whale safer red rope. After several communications with NMFS on creating an identifying mark for this rope, so that law enforcement can easily identify the rope as the 1700lb whale safer red rope, the rope manufacturers have come up with a candy-cane rope which is

distinct enough. The LFoM will be distributing the 1700lb whale safer candy-cane rope in early 2021 to be field tested.

**3. Line Maximum Diameter for Recreational Trap Gear (322 CMR 12.06).**

The MLA **SUPPORTS** the DMF's proposal that all vertical buoy lines affixed to recreational lobster and crab trap gear have a diameter not greater than 5/16".

**4. Prohibition on Single Lobster Traps for Vessels of a Certain Size (322 CMR 12.06).**

The MLA does **NOT SUPPORT** a broad brush approach to the DMF's proposal prohibiting the fishing of single lobster traps onboard vessels with an overall length of 29' or greater.

The MLA requests that any commercial lobsterman currently fishing singles that is 65 years or older be grandfathered in and allowed to fish singles at their current effort and upon transfer this permit would be restricted to trawls.

These commercial lobstermen that are 65 years or older fishing single do it for a multitude of reason; safety, they fish alone, physical limitation and safety. Yes, safety is there twice because safety is number one, two, three and so on.

We do not want any commercial lobsterman to be put in harm's way and for those commercial lobstermen currently fishing singles there should be a phase in period (learning curve) that allows individuals transitioning to trawls time to safely learn how to fish as trawl fishing is completely different than singles fishing. Also, the significant economics of reconfiguring their gear will need to be absorbed over time.

The MLA also requests that the state do a 5-year review on the efficacy of any new regulations along with a sunset clause. The ecosystem is continually changing along with the right whales' behavior which is shifting north and the sightings are dwindling here in the Commonwealth.

**Ropeless Fishing is NOT REAL**

While ropeless was not on the list of proposed right whale conservation measures, it did take up a lot of time on the questions and comments section of the hearings.

The Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association **DOES NOT SUPPORT** ropeless technology.

Today, there is a lot of misperception on what can and can not be done in the commercial lobster fishery when it comes to the use of Ropeless fishing. Over the last 5 years or so, there has been a major effort to make it mandatory for the commercial lobstermen and fixed gear fishermen to transition over to ropeless gear to further save the right whales. Furthermore, this gear transition to ropeless is being pushed for year round implementation when it's not needed as the 3-month closure is in effect when the right whales are present.

The sheer magnitude of the economic undertaking would be well over 150 million dollars to outfit the commercial lobster industry here in the Commonwealth the first year. The individual cost would be an estimated \$190,000 per fishermen to outfit their gear to go fishing. Not to mention there is an average of 10% gear loss each year and this would have to be replaced year in and year out and the gear loss would likely increase dramatically as the technology has yet to be tested on large scale multi disciplined fisheries. This transition would take hundreds of millions of dollars and decades to implement and outfit every commercial fishing vessel that is on the water.

The unintended consequences of gear conflicts between traditional and ropeless gear in the fisheries would be grave if not thought through to the end. Fixed gear commercial fishing and the mobile gear industry do not fish in one hypothetical box for a species and this is where the gear conflicts would be catastrophic given that the technology is not readily available nor do individual brands talk to each other.

Here is a scenario for comparison when technologies do not communicate with each other; What would happen if AT & T, Verizon, Singular, Sprint, and Metro PCS cellphones did not communicate with each other? The consumers would have to carry several phones to stay connected. This is the same for the ropeless technology; they do not communicate with each other; Desert Star, Edge Tech, Lobster Lift, Smelts and more, do not interact with each other so each commercial fisherman would have to have multiple boxes, screens, and transducers on their vessel to see where all the gear is on the bottom.

## **Marine Mammal Protection Act**

“Congress enacted the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) in 1972, due in part to the high level of dolphin mortality in the eastern tropical Pacific tuna fishery (estimated at more than 400,000 animals per year in the late 1960s).”

[https://www.everycrsreport.com/reports/RL30120.html#\\_Toc229466607](https://www.everycrsreport.com/reports/RL30120.html#_Toc229466607) *The MMPA has morphed so radically from its original charge to stave off the loss of 400,000 dolphins per year to becoming the nails in the coffin for every fixed gear fisherman in America. The MMPA was reauthorized in 1994, 26 years ago, and needs to be revamped to be a law that is sensible and attainable. Not a law that vilifies or demonizes our law abiding commercial fishermen when the real problem lies out of the United States of Americas jurisdiction.*

The MMPA shifted all marine mammal management authority to the federal government and from our experience at the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team meeting in 2019, the process failed even while consensus was nearly reached and this process has been broken by Maines consensus withdrawal 5 months later.

## **Endangered Species Act**

*“The Endangered Species Act (ESA) in 1973, it recognized that our rich natural heritage is of “esthetic, ecological, educational, recreational, and scientific value to our Nation and its people.” It further expressed concern that many of our nation's native plants and animals were in danger of becoming extinct”* The commercial lobstermen here in the Commonwealth fish under the strictest conservation management rules anywhere in the world and yet they are still bearing the brunt of ALL the litigation rulings with no end in sight because of the ESA.

Currently, when the right whales visit the coast of Massachusetts from February through April they are free to feed without incident. The ESA has continually worked against the commercial lobstermen for decades now even though they have been doing everything that has been asked of them to do, even the implementation of a 3-month closure to over 3,071 square miles. Should the Commonwealth impose the statewide closure this would mean the loss of 10,554 square miles.

As we navigate through these uncharted waters without knowing what the feasibility is for the State to acquire an Incidental Take Permit we remain hopeful that ALL the elected officials will continue to fight on behalf of the hard working men and women in the commercial lobster industry and fixed gear fisheries. These laws are archaic and the process is broken and need to be

fixed today before it destroys the iconic and historic commercial lobster fishery here in the Commonwealth.

While the Massachusetts commercial lobster industry remains in the crosshairs of the ongoing right whale litigation and conservation with no end in sight when all we need to do is make smart and reasonable changes to the ESA and MMPA that will help both the right whales thrive and commercial lobstermen survive.

In closing, our commercial lobstermen deserve to know that their state is going to fight for them to save their industry not only for today, but for future generations to come. The cooperation put forth by the commercial fishing industry is a true testament that we can collectively work together with managers to reduce the potential risk for entanglements with large whales in fishing gear all the while preserving the viable and historic commercial lobster fishery here in the Commonwealth.

The Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association members thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

*Beth Casoni*

Executive Director

[Beth.casoni@lobstermen.com](mailto:Beth.casoni@lobstermen.com)



# Marine Resources Council

*Turning Science into Action*

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Director Daniel J. McKiernan  
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA 02114  
[marine.fish@mass.gov](mailto:marine.fish@mass.gov)

December 17, 2020

Dear Director McKiernan:

I am writing on behalf of Marine Resources Council regarding proposed amendments to Division of Marine Fisheries regulations at 322 CMR 6.00, 7.00, and 12.00 to reduce the risk of injury and death to North Atlantic right whales due to fishing gear entanglement.

I have worked with North Atlantic right whales in their southeast U.S. calving ground for more than twenty years and I recently participated in a ropeless gear trial for NOAA with at least six ropeless gear devices. I appreciate your efforts to protect right whales while also considering the ramifications to your local fishermen. MRC is supportive of the measures proposed and offers specifics to each section of the draft regulations below.

## **Fixed Gear Closures**

### **1. Commercial Trap Gear Closure (322 CMR 12.04, 12.08, and 12.11).**

Marine Resources Council (MRC) agrees that since North Atlantic right whales have occupied most waters of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts over the last five years (NOAA-NEFSC), it is necessary to expand the current fixed gear closure to all MA waters to reduce entanglements.

However, after having personally operated at least six of the available ropeless fishing devices, I firmly believe that an exception must be made for those fishermen willing to allow ropeless researchers aboard their vessel to further the technology. Additionally, they should be able to keep their catch. While it is currently illegal to fish ropelessly because requirements stipulate that a vertical rope must be attached to gear, a path needs to be paved to allow fishermen who are sustainably fishing with whale-safe gear to be able to use this technology year round, and especially during fishery closures. In order to promote the responsible use of ropeless gear and to contribute much needed feedback to ropeless gear manufacturers, allowing ropeless gear use during the closure would be a great incentive, and is ideal. You have an opportunity to help forge a path towards fishermen and scientists working together more. It's happening now, but it needs to happen more. I have personally participated in gear trials with a success rate of more than 98% over

multiple devices. It works. It's time to get it in the hands of the fishermen. Ropeless gear, or pop-up gear, is the only reliable way to remove vertical lines from the water and eliminate entanglement risk to North Atlantic right whales. Reduction in vertical lines is a step. Elimination of vertical lines is a solution.

**2. Gillnet Closure in Cape Cod Bay (322 CMR 12.04, 12.08, 12.12)**

MRC supports this measure. However, is restricting the closure only to Cape Cod Bay (CCB) enough to protect right whales from gillnet entanglements? Why is this not proposed for all of MA state waters like the fixed gear closure? I recognize the need to be conservative for fishermen and the risk to right whales must be weighed against economic losses in the fishery. Please assess whether it makes sense to limit this closure only to Cape Cod Bay. If right whales are present in nearly all of MA waters (NOAA/NEFSC), why is this closure limited to CCB? If it is because gillnet fishing doesn't exist in other MA waters, then please disregard this statement and consider this measure fully supported.

**3. Fixed Gear Closure Extensions (322 CMR 12.04)**

While MRC supports the proposed use of authority to extend fixed gear closures, I also believe it should be open to shortening the time period at a later date if scientific data eventually supports it. Climate change is shifting the right whales' zooplankton food source and if right whales find a new feeding area, then it stands to reason that the shortening of closures could possibly take place if there is evidence that the area is no longer being used as a right whale critical habitat. While unlikely for decades, this is still a consideration. Fishermen should not be restricted to closures if there is eventually no longer supporting evidence that right whales are using that habitat area. The language in this section of the proposal could be modified to simply include 'extend or shorten' or 'modify' the fixed gear closure timeframe instead of just extending it.

**4. Recreational Lobster and Crab Trap Gear Haul-Out Season (322 CMR 6.02)**

MRC supports this proposal. Recreational and commercial lobster and crab fishermen all use vertical lines. It is the vertical lines that need to come out of the water, no matter who is using them.

**5. Conch Pot Haul-Out Period (322 CMR 6.12)**

MRC supports this proposed haul-out period, not only for the time extension to April 30<sup>th</sup>, but as well as for the reason stated above (#4). Not only does it not matter if the target species is being fished commercially or recreationally, but the target species shouldn't matter, either. If the traps use vertical lines, fishing with them should be restricted based on what sound science has to offer.

**Trap Gear Configuration Modifications and Restrictions**

**1. 1700-lb Breaking Strength Contrivance (322 CMR 12.02 and 12.06)**

While MRC supports the use of 1700-lb breaking strength rope as an improvement to what is being used now, there is no evidence that supports the fact that a right whale calf or juvenile would be able to escape an entanglement in this rope, which is still concerning. I believe interspersed contrivances of 600-lb breaking strength to accommodate the reduced physical strength of sub-adult right whales is one way of ensuring that they might also be able to escape an entanglement. While this is a good start, it still allows for vertical rope in the water column and the risk of entanglement still exists. The only way to prevent right whale entanglements is to remove the vertical ropes, even during non-closure periods. There are long-term physical effects to right whales

(especially females), that remain long after entangling gear is gone. Prevention is the key. This is will help in the short-term, but will not eliminate right whale entanglements in the long-term.

**2. Vertical Buoy Line Maximum Diameter for Commercial Trap Gear (322 CMR 12.06)**

MRC supports this proposal.

**3. Vertical Buoy Line Maximum Diameter for Recreational Trap Gear (322 CMR 12.06)**

MRC supports this proposal.

**4. Prohibition on Single Lobster Traps for Vessel of a Certain Size (322 CMR 12.06)**

MRC supports this proposal, as it reduces the number of vertical lines in the water column.

However, I do not have any information on safety issues that trawls might pose to fishermen on 29' vessels as opposed to fishing single pots. If there are reasonable safety concerns posed by fishermen during the public comment period that relate to fishing trawls specifically on smaller vessels, it is understandable that the vessel length in this proposal might be modified. If there is no evidence that fishing trawls on a 29' vessel is any riskier to fishermen than fishing single pots, then 29' is an acceptable vessel length for this proposal.

**Permitting**

**1. Cap on Issuance of Seasonal Lobster Permits (322 CMR 7.01)**

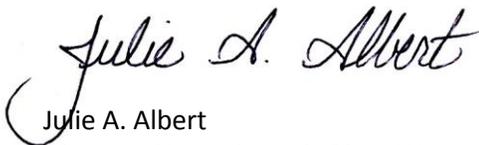
While I do not understand how this will help prevent right whale entanglements, MRC supports this proposal.

**Housekeeping**

MRC supports the proposals here for editing to ensure the reflection of 'the DMF's current approach to managing protected species', consolidate regulations, revise maps, and improve the readability of the regulations.

Thank you for conducting the public hearings on December 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. I attended one of them. I appreciated the opportunity to listen in on the call and to be given the opportunity to make comments during the call and in writing. Most of all, I appreciate what you're doing to set an example for others on moving forward on prevention of entanglements of North Atlantic right whales. They are predicted to be biologically extinct by 2040. That's only 19 years away. They are out of time. I am hoping that your actions here prove that entanglements CAN be reduced, and that others will follow your lead so entanglements can be eliminated altogether.

Sincerely,



Julie A. Albert  
Director, North Atlantic Right Whale Conservation Program  
Marine Resources Council  
whales@mrcirl.org



December 18, 2020

Director Daniel McKiernan  
Division of Marine Fisheries  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA 02114

Sent via email to: [marine.fish@mass.gov](mailto:marine.fish@mass.gov)

**RE: New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing; proposed amendments to 322 CMR 6.00, 7.00, and 12.00.**

Dear Director McKiernan,

Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) is writing to offer comments on the proposed regulations intended to reduce entanglement risks to the North Atlantic right whale (*Eubalaena glacialis*). PEER has been involved with the plight of the right whales for decades, and we are dismayed to see the population plummeting to the point where the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) recently listed them as the only large whale species to be critically endangered. We believe that the regulations proposed are a good start, but they do not go far enough. Our specific comments are set forth below.

**Background.** The primary cause of death for right whales are human-caused vessel strikes and entanglements. From 2003 to 2018, 70 right whale mortalities were documented, and scientists were able to determine cause of death for 43 of these; 57.9% of these deaths were attributable to entanglements.<sup>1</sup> Moreover, researchers concluded:

Overall prevalence of NARW entanglement mortalities increased from 21% (1970-2002) to 51% during this study period. This demonstrates that despite mitigation efforts, entanglements and vessel strikes continue to inflict profound physical trauma and suffering on individual NARWs. These cumulative mortalities are also unsustainable at the population level, so urgent and aggressive intervention is needed to end anthropogenic mortality in this critically endangered species.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.int-res.com/abstracts/dao/v135/n1/p1-31/>

<sup>2</sup> Id.

East Coast fisheries result in roughly one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed and migrate. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale. Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and 60% has been entangled more than once.<sup>3</sup> The population, currently estimated to be 366, is on the verge of being functionally extinct.

In 2017, increased mortalities resulted in declaration of an Unusual Mortality Event (UME) for the right whale.<sup>4</sup> At the December 8, 2020 public hearing on these proposed regulations, you explained that there are two forces at play addressing this UME: 1) the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team; and 2) the April, 2020 District Court decision that ordered the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to obtain an incidental take permit from the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to cover unauthorized takes of right whales from entanglements in fishing gear in Massachusetts waters.

**Proposed regulations.** In response, the DMF is proposing to issue regulations that purportedly reduce the risk of endangered right whales becoming entangled in fixed fishing gear, and reduce the potential harm posed by fixed fishing gear if a right whale interacts with it. The proposed regulations include:

- **Fixed Gear Closures** (extend the existing February 1 – April 30 Large Whale Seasonal Trap Gear Closure (north and east of Cape Cod) to all Massachusetts waters);
- **Gillnet Closure in Cape Cod Bay** (extend the existing January 1 – May 15 gillnet closure in Cape Cod Bay to include those waters shoreward of 70°30' W longitude between 42°00' N latitude (Gurnet Point) and 42°12' N latitude (Scituate Harbor);
- **Fixed Gear Closure Extensions** (retain the regulatory authority to extend the described fixed gear closures upon the documented presence of right whales in Massachusetts waters);
- **Recreational Lobster and Crab Trap Gear Haul-Out Season** (implement a new closed season for buoyed recreational lobster and crab trap gear from the Tuesday following Columbus Day through the Friday preceding Memorial Day);
- **Conch Pot Haul-Out Period** (extend the existing December 15 – April 14 conch pot haul-out period through April 30).
- **Trap Gear Configuration Modifications and Restrictions** (all vertical buoy lines break when exposed to 1,700 pounds of pressure; all vertical buoy lines affixed to commercial trap gear have a diameter not greater than 3/8"; all vertical buoy lines affixed to recreational lobster and crab trap gear have a diameter not greater than 5/16"; prohibit the fishing of single lobster traps onboard vessels with an overall length of 29' or greater);
- **Cap on permits** (a cap on issuance of seasonal lobster permits for students at 150 permits).

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/feature-story/north-atlantic-right-whales-and-dangers-vessel-strikes-and-entanglement>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/marine-life-distress/2017-2020-north-atlantic-right-whale-unusual-mortality-event>

DMF gave additional information at the public hearing, including:

- DMF issued 6,482 non-commercial licenses in 2020;
- There are approximately 800 lobster fishers in state waters, and 1,000 recreational lobster fishers;
- Closing the recreational season allows environmental police the ability to retrieve abandoned gear (roughly half the abandoned gear found is from recreational permit holders);
- Scientists found that 1,700 pounds of breaking strength can reduce the severity of entanglement injuries by 72% (although juvenile whales and calves cannot escape from ropes even with 1,700 pound breaking strength);
- Requiring recreational lobster and crab gear to use lines that do not exceed 5/16” will be “de facto gear marking,” as larger diameter rope would therefore be known to come outside of Massachusetts waters;
- “Zero” entanglements have been traced back to the Massachusetts lobster fishery over the past six years; and
- The regulations will be enforced because the gear modifications are “inspectable” and “recognizable” (when asked if the Massachusetts Environmental Police would actually haul and inspect the gear, DMF responded that they are “expecting compliance with the industry.”)

**“De facto” gear marking is not enough.** It is currently impossible to determine where a particular whale gets entangled due to the fact that there is no enforced requirement for gear marking. In fact, NOAA states that:

Attributing gear from entanglement events to a specific fishery and geographic location is difficult. There are multiple factors that confound identifying discrete locations where entanglements occur. Whales can travel long distances carrying gear, and the moment of entanglement is rarely observed—even more rarely than sighting an entangled whale (compared with the estimated entanglement rates). There are few fishery observers on trap/pot fisheries, particularly state trap/pot fisheries. Entangling gear is not often recovered, and when it is, few identifying characteristics remain.

The Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team has spent many meetings and years grappling with this problem. NOAA Fisheries introduced the concept of gear marking in 1998 under the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan. The gear marking strategy is continually updated, most recently in 2015, in hopes of determining where the highest risk of entanglement occurs.

Despite the current gear marking requirements, gear recovered from whales does not usually have these marks. This may mean the whale was entangled in an area where gear marking was not required, that line itself needs to be marked differently for more effective identification, the requirement does not apply in all the right areas, or that people are not marking their gear. Through the Team process, we are exploring ways to refine gear marking to help address these important questions.

These measures provide no immediate relief from entanglement now. We certainly should pursue improvements in gear marking for the future, but we also need to reduce entanglement risks to right whales now in areas where we know whales and gear overlap.<sup>5</sup>

Scientists estimate that between 20% and 40% of right whale deaths are never observed,<sup>6</sup> which means that entanglement may be a bigger problem than we know. Regardless, we do know that right whales are dying at an unprecedented rate from entanglement in fishing gear, and that sublethal entanglement impacts are also devastating the species. In order to determine *where* the right whales are getting entangled, and in which gear, we need explicit and enforced gear marking. “De facto” gear marking is not enough, particularly when enforcement of the gear changes rely so heavily on voluntary compliance by the industry. In addition, to say that “zero” entanglements have been traced back to the Massachusetts lobster fishery over the past six years is misleading. The reason we cannot trace entanglements to particular locations and fisheries is because there are no strong, enforced gear marking requirements. We therefore urge the DMF to require obvious and specific gear marking requirements (such as all Massachusetts lobster gear requiring a specific color of rope), and enforce those requirements.

**Closures are helpful, but are not enough by themselves.** As NOAA states, “closures, while likely very effective regionally, may not be enough. Each vertical line out there has some potential to cause an entanglement. With a 26% annual entanglement rate in a population of just over 400 animals, this translates to about 100 entanglements per year, which is significant for such a small population.”<sup>7</sup> They also state that “there is no place within the fished area along the East Coast of North America for which entanglement risk is zero.”<sup>8</sup>

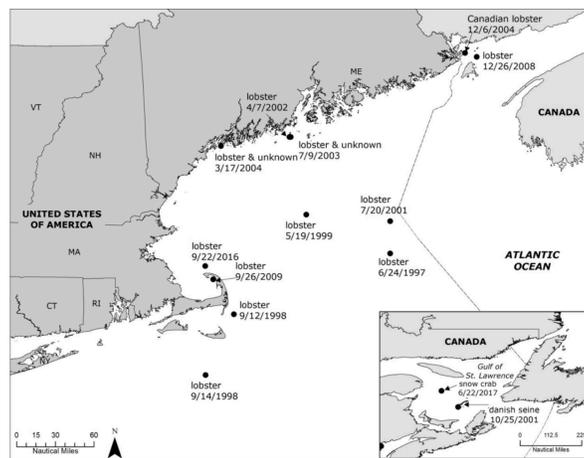


Fig 5. Right whale entanglements from 1997 through 2017 for which the set location and type of gear are known, and gear was recovered from a whale.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/new-england-mid-atlantic/marine-mammal-protection/right-whales-and-entanglements-more-how-noaa#where-entanglements-and-whales-occur>

<sup>6</sup> Id.

<sup>7</sup> [https://archive.fisheries.noaa.gov/garfo/protected/whaletrp/trt/meetings/September%202018/tm247\\_2\\_.pdf](https://archive.fisheries.noaa.gov/garfo/protected/whaletrp/trt/meetings/September%202018/tm247_2_.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> Id.

Moreover, the closure proposed south of the Cape coinciding with the Cape Cod Bay closure is necessary, but not sufficient. There are now whales south of the islands, and changing climate and food sources appears to be resulting in right whales regularly in these areas in November and December, so additional protection is warranted. This could be achieved by a closure in Massachusetts waters south of the Cape for November and December, or by using the dynamic closure approaches similar to that the Canadians have taken,<sup>9</sup> using triggers from acoustic or visual detections. Of course, this would require appropriate monitoring regimes to be in place, if this route is chosen instead of a longer closure.

**Gillnetting should be subject to all the same regulation as trap/pot fisheries.** Gillnetting also entangles whales, and as such, should be subject to the same regulation as the other fisheries. Given the inability to assign entanglements to either locations or fisheries, the precautionary principle dictates that we treat all fisheries the same.

**Effort reduction must be considered.** Since every vertical line in the water is a risk for this critically endangered species, removing some of these lines will reduce this risk. As such, PEER recommends reducing or eliminating recreational permits; providing funding for retraining fishers interested in moving to another occupation, and for those permits to be removed from the fishery permanently.

**Ropeless gear must be included.** DMF's failure to include a path for ropeless gear in the new regulations is unacceptable. The 1,700 pound breakable rope for fishing lines still poses a threat to juvenile whales, calves, and – as DMF itself concedes – only reduces the severity of entanglement injuries by 72%. This does not mean that entanglements would be *reduced* by 72%, but rather, that the severity of the entanglements would be reduced. Since sublethal entanglements are a large factor in the decline of right whale populations, this provision does not obviate the need for ropeless gear.

Ropeless gear is being used by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the west coast of the United States. At the Right Whale Consortium this year, PEER heard New England lobstermen testify that ropeless gear does work, and that the few failures they observed were from human error. Ropeless gear is the *only* technology that would allow the right whales and the fisheries to survive. It is a rare situation where we can have a win-win situation, and DMF should do everything in their power to encourage the use of this technology.

**Conclusion.** PEER appreciates DMF's efforts to reduce right whale entanglements. We agree that the proposed closures are necessary, but they do not go far enough. Moreover, we need enforced gear marking in order to determine where whales are getting entangled. Finally, gillnetting should also be subject to similar regulations, and effort reduction and ropeless gear must be included. Extinction is a choice, and choosing to allow the North Atlantic right whale to go extinct is unacceptable. As such, DMF must increase its efforts to prevent entanglements in Massachusetts waters.

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<sup>9</sup> <https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fisheries-peches/commercial-commerciale/atl-arc/narw-bnan/management-gestion-eng.html>

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these proposed regulations.

Sincerely,

*Kyla Bennett*

Kyla Bennett, Director  
New England PEER  
[kbennett@peer.org](mailto:kbennett@peer.org)  
508-230-9933



**New England  
Aquarium**

*Protecting the blue planet*

December 18, 2020

Daniel McKiernan  
Director  
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA 02114

**RE: Public Comment on New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing (proposed amendments to regulations at 322 CMR 6.00 and 12.00).**

Dear Mr. McKiernan,

In response to the *Public Comment on New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing*, the New England Aquarium (Aquarium) is pleased to submit this comment for consideration by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (MA DMF).

The Aquarium appreciates this opportunity to provide specific comments on the proposed rules and to continue to work closely with the team at MA DMF to inform and implement changes that will prevent North Atlantic right whales (NARW) from going extinct. The Aquarium recognizes the challenges faced by MA DMF in balancing fishing interests with the need to reduce the risk of entanglements in fishing gear to NARWs in Massachusetts state waters. Overall, the proposed rules represent a strong, good-faith effort to reduce that risk, and the Aquarium thanks MA DMF for working diligently on behalf of its fisheries and the NARW.

Scientists at the Aquarium have been researching NARWs for more than forty years with the goal of preventing this species from going extinct. In addition, representatives from the Aquarium have served on the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team since it was formed in 1997. The Aquarium is pleased to see that the published research our scientists have conducted was used to inform aspects of these measures.

The Aquarium supports the proposed measures and offers specific comments on each proposal below.

### **Fixed Gear Closures**

#### *1. Commercial Trap Gear Closure*

The Aquarium fully supports the proposed amendment to include all Massachusetts state waters in the Large Whale Seasonal Trap Gear Closure.

## *2. Gillnet Closure in Cape Cod Bay*

The Aquarium supports the proposed gillnet closure in Cape Cod Bay and requests that the MA DMF consider extending the closure to all Massachusetts state waters similar to the provisions proposed for commercial trap gear. In addition, the proposed rules currently do not specify that gillnet gear be required to use 1,700-pound breaking strength rope. This requirement should be consistent for all fixed gear in state waters, including gillnet gear.

## *3. Conch Pot Fishery*

The Aquarium supports the proposal to extend the haul-out period of the conch pot fishery to April 30.

## *4. Recreational Fishery*

The Aquarium supports the proposal to expand the closure to the recreational fishery.

## *5. Dynamic Closures*

In addition to the closures outlined in the proposed rules, the Aquarium would like to point out that there are areas in MA state waters that are becoming increasingly important habitat for NARWs at times of year other than the closed periods. NARWs are currently detected intermittently by acoustic sensors south of Martha's Vineyard<sup>1</sup> and on Cox's Ledge<sup>2</sup>. Previous deployments of acoustic sensors in the same general area<sup>3</sup> demonstrate the presence of NARWs there, particularly in November and December (outside of the Seasonal Trap Gear Closure). The Aquarium recommends incorporating acoustic detections of NARW into management decisions to account for and adapt to ongoing NARW temporal and spatial changes. NARW distribution, movements, and presence of feeding aggregations will likely continue to shift in the future as a result of climate change.

One way to incorporate these detections into management measures is through dynamic closures, rather than requiring complete closures in certain areas such as south of Martha's Vineyard and on Cox's Ledge. The processes to institute these have been developed by the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans for the Gulf of St. Lawrence snow crab fishery in response to detections of NARWs<sup>4,5</sup>. The scientific underpinnings for using

<sup>1</sup> [http://dcs.who.edu/mamv0720/mamv0720\\_mamv.shtml](http://dcs.who.edu/mamv0720/mamv0720_mamv.shtml)

<sup>2</sup> [http://dcs.who.edu/cox1120/cox1120\\_we16.shtml](http://dcs.who.edu/cox1120/cox1120_we16.shtml)

<sup>3</sup> <http://dcs.who.edu/nomans0916/nomans0916.shtml>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/about-notre-sujet/publications/infographics-infographies/narw-bnan-protecting-protege-eng.html>, <https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fisheries-peches/commercial-commerciale/atl-arc/narw-bnan/management-gestion-eng.html>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fisheries-peches/commercial-commerciale/atl-arc/narw-bnan/index-eng.html>

acoustic detections to institute dynamic spatial closures are outlined in two recent papers, led by Dr. Mark Baumgartner at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution<sup>6,7</sup>.

## *6. Risk Reduction*

The Aquarium notes that, during the public meetings on December 8 and 9, 2020, comments were made about simply moving gear into the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone to avoid the closures and other restrictions in state waters once these rules are finalized. The Aquarium strongly discourages this strategy, as it will reduce the effectiveness of the strong steps Massachusetts has proposed to reduce the risk of entanglements in fishing gear to NARWs.

### **Trap Gear Restrictions**

#### *1. Buoy Line Breaking Strength*

The Aquarium supports the provision requiring all commercial trap fishermen to use buoy lines with 1,700 pound breaking strength (lbf). We recognize that that 1,700 lbf ropes will not eliminate entanglements, but should reduce the risk of an entanglement becoming complex and potentially lethal. We consider 1,700 lbf ropes an interim measure to be used until such time as ropeless fishing is a feasible option that could be broadly implemented. Monitoring the effectiveness of 1,700 lbf ropes in reducing impacts to all large whales will be critical in the near-term as ropeless technology continues to improve.

Collaborative work between scientists at the Aquarium, the South Shore Lobster Fishermen's Association, and other fishermen has shown that 1,700 lb sleeved ropes can be fished in waters up to 300 feet without needing to reconfigure the bottom gear<sup>8</sup>. Additional work is continuing to simulate tensions when hauling gear of different configurations and in different weather conditions and also evaluating scenarios where a whale becomes entangled in the gear. Initial findings suggest that the tension on the rope will reach the 1,700 lb breaking strength threshold just below the impact point where the whale first encounters the gear. This finding suggests that multiple weak points in an endline will be the most effective at reducing the amount of trailing gear that might be left on a whale by breaking close to the impact point and perhaps allowing the remaining gear to be more easily shed.

Based on these findings, the Aquarium recommends that for buoy lines that use contrivances or weak inserts MA DMF require that the contrivances be integrated every 40 feet to reduce the amount of trailing gear remaining on a whale and allow that gear to be more easily shed by the whale. We also recommend that 1700 lb breaking strength ropes be marked appropriately to differentiate them from non-weak ropes or ropes using contrivances, which will help support

<sup>6</sup> <https://besjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdf/10.1111/2041-210X.13244>

<sup>7</sup> [https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fmars.2020.00100/full?utm\\_source=S-TWT&utm\\_medium=SNET&utm\\_campaign=ECO\\_FMARS\\_XXXXXXX\\_auto-dlvrit](https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fmars.2020.00100/full?utm_source=S-TWT&utm_medium=SNET&utm_campaign=ECO_FMARS_XXXXXXX_auto-dlvrit)

<sup>8</sup> Knowlton, A.R., Malloy, R. Jr., Kraus, S.D., and Werner, T.B. (2018). Development and Evaluation of Reduced Breaking Strength Rope to Reduce Large Whale Entanglement Severity. Report to MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. 66 pp.

enforcement efforts. Furthermore, we strongly encourage that any contrivance allowed by these rules be required to go through stringent testing to ensure that it breaks as anticipated and is appropriately designed to pass through baleen.

Comments were made during the December 8 and 9, 2020, public meetings and elsewhere that 1,700 lb ropes will not help juvenile NARWs. The Aquarium would like to provide clarifying remarks about our research. The Knowlton et al. (2016) paper<sup>9</sup> compared estimated rope strength versus new rope strength for all cases. In 28% of the cases, the estimated rope strength was below 1,700 lbs, but the authors noted that using estimated rope strengths had some issues as it was not always known how long the rope had been on the entangled whale and subject to degradation or how long it had been in storage, which could also lead to degradation. The authors therefore opted to focus on new rope strength as the metric for our analyses. New rope strength that involved entangled juveniles of ~6 months to 2 years old was found to be in the 2,000-4,000 lb. range whereas all adults were in ropes greater than 4,000 lb breaking strength. Therefore, the data suggest the 1,700 lb breaking strength rope recommendation would reduce the threat of high risk entanglements for most—if not all—entangled juvenile right whales except perhaps neonates and young calves, whose body length and strength may be more akin to minke whales, the one large whale species found in new rope strengths below 1700 lbs. These findings were independently corroborated in a paper by Arthur et al. (2015)<sup>10</sup>. The authors looked at the force output of different cetacean species based on a variety of anatomical measurements and found that all large whales evaluated, except for some minke whales, had an estimated force output above 2,248 lbs (10 kilonewtons).

## *2. Maximum Buoy Line Diameter*

The Aquarium supports the proposal to limit buoy line diameters for both commercial and recreational trap fisheries.

## *3. Prohibition on Single Traps*

The Aquarium supports the proposal prohibiting fishing single traps as a way to reduce the number of vertical lines in the water column.

## *4. Ropeless fishing gear*

The Aquarium recognizes the reasons why ropeless fishing gear is not considered in these proposed rules, but encourages MA DMF to establish a way forward for introducing ropeless technologies in state waters in the future. The Aquarium supports efforts to improve the

<sup>9</sup> Knowlton, A.R., Robbins, J., Landry, S., McKenna, H.A., Kraus, S.D. and Werner, T.B. (2016), Effects of fishing rope strength on the severity of large whale entanglements. *Conservation Biology*, 30: 318-328. <https://conbio.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/cobi.12590>

<sup>10</sup> Arthur, L.H., Mclellan, W.A., Piscitelli, M.A., Rommel, S.A., Woodward, B.L., Winn, J.P., Potter, C.W. and Ann Pabst, D. (2015), Estimating maximal force output of cetaceans using axial locomotor muscle morphology. *Mar Mam Sci*, 31: 1401-1426. <https://doi.org/10.1111/mms.12230>

technology and identify areas in state waters to test the technology in collaboration with fishermen.

We look forward to working closely with MA DMF to identify additional measures that will not only benefit NARWs, but also the fishery. Options for gear modifications will continue to evolve and improve as we learn more about what does or does not work for the whales and for the fishermen. It will take close collaboration between MA DMF, the industry, and scientists to monitor the feasibility and effectiveness of gear changes and closures to achieve the overall goal of mitigating entanglements in the years ahead. In the near term, we encourage the Commonwealth to consider ways to differentiate lobster (or other products) caught in state waters under these rules in an effort to create a potential market preference for buyers.

We also look forward to reviewing proposed rule changes that will reduce risk to endangered leatherback sea turtles from entanglements in MA state waters.

As a final note, while it was mentioned during the public hearings on December 8 and 9, 2020, the Aquarium recommends that MA DMF specify the implementation dates in the final rule.

In closing, the Aquarium thanks MA DMF for their diligent and thoughtful effort to propose strong rules to reduce the risk of entanglements to NARWs in Massachusetts state waters. We hope that the leadership shown here in the Commonwealth is modeled by others in the region and by the federal government.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kelly A. Kryc". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Kelly A. Kryc, Ph.D.  
Director of Ocean Policy

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [Jennifer Hoen](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 10:47:19 AM

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Dear Director McKiernan:

As a concerned Massachusetts resident, I fear the North Atlantic right whale may go extinct in my lifetime. North Atlantic right whales are dying due to human actions. The DoMF, alongside NOAA, has the opportunity to make the necessary changes to save this species. I am glad to see our commonwealth is taking necessary steps to ensure the protection and survival of right whales by proposing new regulations for commercial fixed gear fisheries and recreational lobster and crab trap fisheries. Some of the changes I support include:

- Expanded closures for trap fisheries in all of Massachusetts waters.
- A new closed season for the buoyed recreational lobster and crab trap fishery.
- The DoMF retaining the ability to extend these closures based on North Atlantic right whale sightings.
- A marking system that will differentiate the gear that may be lawfully used in Massachusetts from heavier gear that may be used in the offshore exclusive economic zone or Canada.

I strongly encourage the DoMF to develop a plan for a full transition to ropeless technology in commercial trap fisheries as quickly and responsibly as possible. Removing vertical lines from the water is the only way to fully prevent entanglements and save this species.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Hoen  
4D Dewey Drive  
Salem, MA 01970-6721

**From:** [Faye Anderson](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New protected species regulations affecting trap fishing  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 1:54:36 PM

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Dear Daniel McKiernan,

My name is Brock Bobisink and my fiancé's name is Faye Anderson. Together we own the 35 foot FV Loon Cry situated in Aunt Lydias Cove in Chatham, Massachusetts. We fish OCLMA state waters from Nauset Inlet to South Truro inside state waters.

We strongly oppose making vessels larger than 29 feet fishing having to fish trawl rather than fishing single pots.

We strongly oppose single pot vessels being forced to fish trawl in OCLMA Outer Cape state waters.

We recommend exclusion for single pot vessels over 29 feet from having to fish trawl in OCLMA Outer Cape waters.

More than 1/2 of the Outer Cape permit holders that fish our area are fishing single pots. Single pot fisherman would be forced into economic hardship by having to make gear and vessel alterations to accommodate trawl.

We are already forced to have our gear out of the water when the right whales are in our area. We have 600lb break away buoys & are now adding 1700lb breaking line.....trawl is just going to kill small business owners not help right whales.

Since purchasing our business four years ago we had to spend over \$60,000 on gear and \$120,000 on a boat upgrade. We started the business with a 30 foot boat -1 foot larger than the 29 foot allowable length proposed for singles. These gear and boat investments enhanced our single pot business. Lobster gear is also highly customized. These modifications were a necessity as we couldn't continue to operate out of the smaller 30 foot boat.

If forced to fish trawl our gear would need to be completely replaced, a modification would not be possible. Boat modifications would also be necessary and costly. These modifications would cost upwards of \$100,000. The cost of new gear, boat modification, and the money already spend on developing the business to where it stands would be financially crippling.

Inclement weather on the backside create unique and challenging weather conditions not seen in Cape Cod Bay or Nantucket Sound or other lobster areas where singles are traditionally fished. Boats operating in OCLMA Outer Cape waters must routinely pass through Nauset Harbor, Chatham Harbor, or Race Point. These are no places for small boats. These places are all affected by dynamic conditions such as breaking waves, fog, large tides, and wind when we fished our 30 foot boat transiting to and from the fishing grounds 15 miles away crossing a bar with breaking seas, often over loaded, we blew a sigh of relief upon reentry in the harbor

because we were simply pushing it in a 30 foot boat. We purchased the bigger boat to fish more safely and efficiently as a family.

Our business plan has been designed around being able to work with my family & single traps. By fishing singles I am able to take my fiance or son as crew most of the time. It also allows me the option to fish by myself or take last minute crew with little or no experience. I am able to do this because it is alot less dangerous in the single pot fishery. There is less chance for entanglement and being dragged overboard. My lobster gear is very heavy and my wife or young son may not be able to handle it efficiently as trawl. Affording to pay another full time crew member is not possible within our finances. I also believe my fishing efficiency would be greatly decreased by switching to trawl as well. It has already been scientifically proven that singles out-fish trawl. With only 470 trap tags, it would be necessary to purchase more trap tags just to land the same amount of product. Trap tags are very costly and hard to come adding to the hardships. Having to fish trawl would be financially crippling to our business.

I feel that my sentiments are probably mirrored by other Outer Cape fisherman who also fish single pots. This fishery was developed over 100 years. The outer Cape has already given up trap tag reductions and area closures. To change all of our gear to trawls would be disasterous and non-beneficial to all fishermen involved. We would lose more gear and create conflict amongst ourselves in a tight area that is aggressively fished, where we barely work around each other without conflict. We police ourselves in a manner that works. Lobstermen are constantly forced into new regulations even though we are the major conservationists. These new proposed regulations would prove disastrous and fatal for our small business and family. How can we make capital investments when rules are constantly changing due to an animal with a migrational pattern we have no control over? We need more real data on these whales. I worry that small businesses like myself will be pushed into fishing smaller boats to keep operating in the same manner which creates dangerous situations. Perhaps they will simply be forced out or even worse have to hire outside help. The single pot fishery has traditionally been family operated. We are a vital part of the Cape Cod economy. We are also some of the last producers left on Cape Cod and we don't want to see this tradition and livelihood become a thing of the past.

Thank you for you time  
Sincerely Brock & Faye  
FV/ Loon Cry

**From:** [gail waitt](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New protected species regulations  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 8:50:09 AM

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Dear DMF,

My name is Carl Waitt and I have been a commercial lobsterman since 1985 and a student license before then. After listening to the hearings on both nights this is what I have to say.

From what we have heard the right whales are entangled with heavy lines used in off shore fishing and in used Canadian fishing gear. It makes no sense to close state waters and leave federal water untouched. Cruise ships, cargo ships, pollution ect... are killing and injuring a lot more whales ect than any in shore lobsterman fishing where the closures are proposed to be.

Over the years I have been put out of the Gill netting because of all the restrictions especially taking away the most profitable months and the regulations never being relaxed. I threw out thousands of dollars worth of Gill nets and concentrated solely on commercial lobstering and slowly that's been getting harder to do over the years.

Why can't the break away lines and links at least be given a shot. It's new and needs to be studied. Ropeless fishing will not work because it would be too congested. Right now four guys can set over one trawl and that's with buoys! The cost of this crazy ropeless fishing would put us out of business, let alone when we get a nor'easter all that gear will be tangled up altogether and be a real horror show to deal with.

If these closures take place we will miss out on the spring fishing which pre COVID can bring prices of \$11.00 per lb. We will not have income to pay our bills and feed our families. Talking to a Canadian lobsterman, I learned that during their closure they get subsidized 800.00 per week and some get even more.

We all love whales, but fixing what is happening to the right whales needs to be shared by all involved! Not just the inshore commercial lobsterman.

Thank you,  
Carl and Gail Waitt  
Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Jennifer Nobrega](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New regulations  
**Date:** Thursday, December 17, 2020 10:13:02 AM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Dan,

I am writing to let you know that I am opposed to the new regulations being set for lobstering. This will have a very negative impact on not only the fishermen but also the economy in this area. Lobster is a very big part of this area at restaurants and also for family dinners. There is nothing better than eating something that has been caught locally. Considering New Bedford is the largest fishing industry in the country we should have local seafood available year round.

The months that lobstering will be closed will be detrimental to the livelihood of the fisherman. With multiple men and women on each boat there will be many families that will not be able to financially survive months without working. Some of them fishing is all they know and it will be a challenge to find temporary work that will compare to the pay they make on the boats. Please take into consideration the negative impacts this decision has on this area and the hard working Men and women involved. I agree with protecting the environment and keeping all animals protected but in this area that is being closed the whales are not present and have no positive impact on this area. There is so much more to lose by closing this area than there is to gain.

Thank you  
Jen Nobrega

Sent from my iPhone



David J. Farrell, Jr.  
David S. Smith\*  
Liam T. O'Connell  
Kirby L. Aarsheim\*\*  
Olaf Aprans

\* Also admitted in Maine  
\*\*Also admitted in Rhode Island

ATTORNEYS AT LAW & PROCTORS IN ADMIRALTY

*olaf@fsfirm.com*

December 18, 2020

Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries  
251 Causeway Street  
Boston, MA 02114

Attn: Director Daniel McKiernan

**Re: Proposed Amendments to 322 CMR 6.00, 7.00 and 12.00**

Dear Director McKiernan:

We represent the Massachusetts Lobstermen's Survival Fund (the "Fund"), which is a group of Massachusetts commercial lobstermen and stakeholders in the Massachusetts commercial lobster fishery. Its purposes include working for the economic survival of lobstermen, and its efforts at this time are mainly focused on showing the general public, the courts, and regulators that coastal lobstering with traditional trap gear and vertical buoy lines is sustainable and safe for the northern right whale. On behalf of the Fund, we respectfully submit these comments for the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries' ("Mass DMF") review and consideration.

**1. The Proposed Rule is a product of Federal Overreach and not Science.**

As a threshold matter, we note that the Mass DMF likely finds itself between a rock and a hard place at this time, as do the lobstermen. Presently, there are two [2] pending Endangered Species Act ("ESA") lawsuits in the United States District Courts in Boston and Washington, D.C. initiated by environmentalists that substantially threaten the very existence of a Massachusetts commercial lobster fishery. If those environmentalists successfully prosecute those matters, then Massachusetts lobstermen could be out of work in both state and federal waters as early as June 2021:

- **Washington DC Case (NOAA ITS).** The Washington case concerns the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's ("NOAA") failure to include an Incidental Take Statement ("ITS") concerning northern right whales in its

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biological opinion. The judge has ordered that biological opinion vacated unless NOAA remedies this regulatory deficiency by May 31, 2021.

- **Massachusetts Case (Mass DMF ITP).** The judge in the Massachusetts case has found a likelihood of success on the merits that licensing vertical buoy lines in Massachusetts waters will likely cause a “taking” of a northern right whale in violation of the ESA. She has ordered Mass DMF to apply for an Incidental Take Permit (“ITP”) from NOAA pursuant to Section 10 of the ESA. The trial is scheduled for June 2021.<sup>1</sup>

NOAA’s issuing both the ITS and ITP is governed under more or less the same standard. The NOAA scientists will need to opine that the federal and state plans will have no more than a negligible impact on the northern right whale.

It appears that the proposed rule we are talking about today is tailored toward obtaining the court-ordered ITP and satisfying NOAA and the U.S. District Court. It does not appear to be a product of Mass DMF’s independent scientific judgment.

The problem presented by the ongoing right whale litigation is that it creates a “tail wagging the dog” scenario whereby Mass DMF is hamstrung in its deliberation process and cannot effectively do its job as a state agency. Citizen and industry participation in the rulemaking process, a right guaranteed by the Massachusetts Constitution and the Massachusetts Administrative Procedure Act, is likewise rendered effectively meaningless because the Mass DMF must create rules to the satisfaction of NOAA regulators on account of a Federal Court second guessing the Mass DMF’s management of the lobster fishery. In the opinion of the Fund, this is an unlawful commandeering of the Mass DMF by the federal government and a federal overreach that deprives Massachusetts lobster permit holders and other stakeholders of their property without due process.

At the present time, indeed, not a single Massachusetts lobsterman or industry group is an active party in the Massachusetts case, which has been initiated by a New Hampshire environmentalist. The judge in that case may regulate Massachusetts state law from the bench to the whims of foreigners without a single lobsterman or Massachusetts citizen being heard. The Fund has recently moved to intervene in the Massachusetts action to ensure Massachusetts lobstermen have a voice in that case and to fight back against this Kafkaesque and likely unconstitutional sleight of hand.

While the Fund appreciates that Mass DMF did not choose to be in this scenario, the Fund must object to any rulemaking that is not based on a genuine and free agency deliberation and rulemaking process required by Mass DMF’s enabling act, the Massachusetts Constitution and the Massachusetts Administrative Procedure Act. The very fact that Mass DMF’s hands appear to be tied by definition means that there cannot be free agency deliberation and a legitimate public process. Massachusetts citizens and Massachusetts lobstermen are deprived of

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<sup>1</sup> There is similar right whale litigation pending in the U.S. District Court in Portland, Maine.

these basic procedures and rights to regulate the sovereign waters and public trust of the Commonwealth.

What adds insult to injury is that the Mass DMF has been a pioneer in issuing comprehensive and progressive protections for the northern right whale that are unmatched in any other jurisdiction. It is undisputed that Massachusetts presently has in place the most protective and innovative fixed gear protections for this species. Obviously, the Mass DMF did not implement its existing plan for the Massachusetts lobster fishery if its scientists and experts believed that it would likely result in a taking under the ESA. Black letter agency law requires deference to the Mass DMF's existing plan and agency decision. A Federal Judge in Boston, who admittedly is not a trained environmental scientist in any degree, has improperly replaced the scientific opinion of Mass DMF with her own, based on unverified and unfalsifiable paper submissions. Rather than create a remedy, the Court has required Mass DMF to obtain NOAA's approval. This is a *de facto* federal takeover of the Massachusetts state lobster fishery, and this rulemaking process cannot be genuine or anything more than veneer because Mass DMF must serve its federal master regardless of public input.

NOAA, evidently, is the last place to look for results on this issue. That agency, indeed, has not obeyed its own ESA regulations since 2014 with respect to right whales. As a direct and proximate result of NOAA's malfeasance, the entire federal lobster fishery is in jeopardy. It is unconscionable that Mass DMF, who arguably has been the most responsible regulator with respect to northern right whales, must seek permission from NOAA to ratify its very well reasoned and sustainable fishery that has worked for years without a single right whale entanglement since 2016 and without any morbid entanglement or serious injury at any time. The present estimate appears to be that NOAA will drag issuance of the ITP for approximately two [2] years, which sets Mass DMF for potential failure at the forthcoming June 2021 trial for no fault of the Mass DMF or Massachusetts lobstermen.

The situation is clearly untenable. Mass DMF is recommending changes to its rules previously found to be perfectly reasonable based on its own scientific judgment. These changes are not based on Mass DMF's scientific judgment, but on creating an appearance that will hopefully meet the approval of NOAA regulators. This is without question arbitrary and capricious, and such is not the intended design of our Massachusetts state agencies. This court ordered federal takeover of the Mass DMF contravenes basic rights of Massachusetts citizens and the basic ideas of sovereignty over Massachusetts waters. We therefore object to and cannot support the proposed rule in principle.

## **2. Massachusetts Coastal Gear is Safe and Sustainable.**

The narrative that Northeast coastal lobster gear is a threat to right whales is simply false. The real human threats to right whales (ship strikes and the unregulated Canadian snow crab fishery) are not attainable targets for regulators. Lobstermen, on the other hand and much like the northern right whale 150 years ago, have unfortunately become easy targets to create the appearance that regulators are protecting this critical species. This has resulted in serious misinformation and unfair assumptions within the general public, and the public relations

campaign that vertical buoy lines are dangerous is not based on hard evidence. As a result, the real threats to the northern right whale are ignored and remedial measures are largely ineffective.

The evidence shows that the current state and federal regulations are working. Since the right whale Take Reduction Plan was amended in 2009 and 2015, there has been a strong downward trend in the incidence of entanglement cases involving U.S. lobster gear. Prior to 2010, there were seven such entanglements, only one of which was attributed to Massachusetts gear. There has only been one known entanglement in U.S. lobster gear nationwide since 2010. That entanglement, occurring in September 2016, did not result in the serious injury or death to a northern right whale. Accordingly, U.S. lobster gear entanglements are exceptionally rare events. When it has occurred, it did not result in serious death or injury. Entanglements have been made even rarer on account of comprehensive and reasonable efforts to mitigate and virtually eliminate U.S. lobster gear entanglements since 2009. *There is no evidence that a right whale has ever died or become seriously injured as a result of entanglement in Massachusetts lobster gear or the coastal lobster gear of any other state.*

The evidence shows that right whale entanglements are not attributable to the Massachusetts coastal lobster fishery or the coastal lobster fishery of any other state. Since 2010, larger diameter ropes of ½" or greater represented 79% of the gear removed from entangled whales. Almost all coastal lobstermen fish in state waters with smaller diameter ropes. The gear diameter suggests that the entanglement problem is primarily within the Canadian snow crab fishery. This makes sense and explains the recent increase in entanglement because northern right whales have recently emigrated to feeding grounds in the Gulf of St. Lawrence on account of climate change. Any existing entanglement problem is clearly not a Massachusetts coastal lobstering problem. Further restrictions on the Massachusetts lobster fishery, therefore, are unnecessary at this time. Moreover, the existing federal and state regulations and public relations campaign targeted almost exclusively on U.S. coastal lobstering, do not effectively address the real problem and more whales will die as a result of these misguided efforts and misallocation of regulatory attention.

Critical information is omitted or ignored, which significantly impacts the understanding of human causes of serious injury to northern right whales. The evidence shows that gillnet gear and netting play a much larger role in entanglement cases. Further, there has been insufficient investigation to a pronounced increase in observations of unknown gear, particularly the increase in cases since 2015 with no gear present. This leaves significant unanswered questions about the responsibility of unregulated Canadian fisheries for right whale entanglements. Consequently, environmental advocates and regulators erroneously overstate the share properly attributable to the Northeast lobster fishery and downplay the role of other gears in right whale serious injury and mortality.

The data shows that gillnet and netting gear were the most prevalent gear (other than Canadian snow crab gear) and the Northeast lobster fishery were the least prevalent in right whale entanglements. This finding means that any conservation target to restrict commercial lobstering in coastal waters is unsupported by the best available data, and any package of remedial measures designed to meet it cannot credibly generate the conservation benefits anticipated.

As a result of the blatant misinformation, the public has erroneously assumed that all entanglements result from the commercial lobster fishery. The evidence, however, unequivocally shows that entanglements in coastal lobster gear are exceptionally rare. The power of the public relations campaign against the lobstermen is substantial and it has actually reversed the way many people think about science and evidence. As of today, lobstermen appear to be faced with the impossible task of “proving a negative,” *i.e.* showing that all entanglements are *not* lobster gear. This is a logical impossibility. It is assumed, without evidence, that all “unknown entanglements” are lobster entanglements and lobstermen are unfairly adjudged guilty before even walking into the courtroom. Such assumptions are irrational and unscientific, and for some, unfairly assuming that lobstermen are the culprit has almost become a religion. Enacting rulemaking based on such religious thinking, of course, is arbitrary and capricious.

To be effective, conservation measures must be based on data concerning all known risks to the northern right whale and must accurately reflect the risk posed by each threat. The unfair and unscientific focus on the U.S. coastal lobster fishery without considering the best available data from all fisheries guarantees ineffective and hollow policy. NOAA data from 2010-2018 reveals that NOAA scientists estimate the following human causes attributable to northern right whale serious injury and death:

Cause	Percent
U.S. and Canadian vessel strikes	48%
Canadian Snow Crab Fishery	31%
Gillnet and netting gear	13%
Unknown trap/pot gear	4%
U.S. trap/pot gear	4%

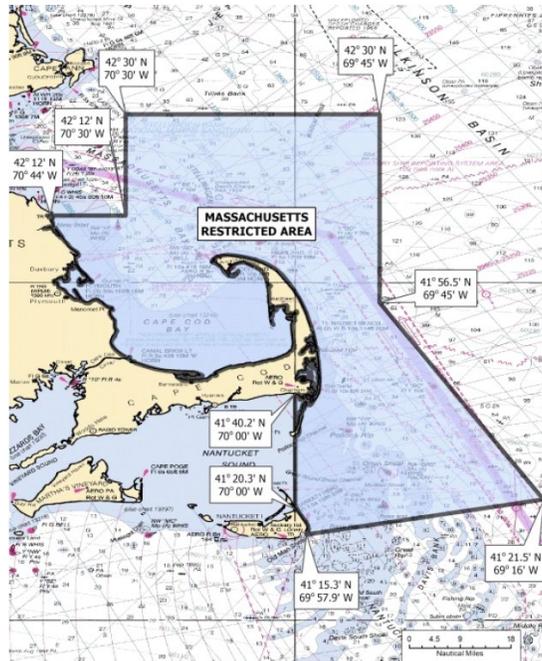
The above figures are what NOAA estimates, but again, there are *no known cases of right whale serious injury or death involving Northeast lobster gear.*

The Massachusetts Lobstermen's Survival Fund is committed to the protection of the northern right whale. In a way, lobstermen and right whales have a symbiotic relationship. As right whales near extinction, it appears that environmentalists and the misinformed seek to unfairly take the lobstermen down with them. The fates have entwined whales and lobstermen together and it is for this reason why lobstermen are committed to protecting this critical species. This is why we cannot responsibly support the proposed regulations. The further restrictions will accomplish nothing and will create the dangerous false assumption that appropriate measures are in place to protect right whales. Meanwhile, the whales will continue to be run over by ships and entangled in the heavy snow crab gear outside Mass DMF's jurisdiction.

### **3. Expanding the Closed Area is Unnecessary.**

Of the only two [2] lobster gear entanglements in Massachusetts state waters, both were set within Cape Cod Bay, which is known to have a seasonal aggregation of northern right whales. Right whales, though sporadically sighted outside of this location, are generally not known to aggregate in other areas of the Commonwealth.

Based on over twenty [20] years of aerial studies, and in collaboration with NOAA, the Mass DMF has established the Large Whale Trap/Pot Gear Closure Area (the "Closed Area"). This Closed Area is established based on where whales are known to aggregate:



As there is no evidence of an entanglement or whale aggregation occurring anywhere outside of this Closed Area at any time, expanding the Closed Area to all of Massachusetts waters is not based on any substantial evidence and is arbitrary and capricious. Such a drastic closure, again, appears to be an appeasement to the very unscientific and religious assumption that lobster gear is the primary cause of whale entanglements. The evidence shows that this assumption cannot be true.

#### **4. Ropeless Gear Does not Work.**

The concept that ropeless gear is a workable alternative is the product of ivory towered and magical thinking. This idea has been around for more than a decade, yet no one has been able to successfully commercially develop this product. Even those who are trying to develop and promote ropeless gear will admit the product is not ready for the commercial market. The product literally has never worked and it has not been working for more than a decade.

Requiring commercial lobstermen to use this theoretical method to harvest will place all commercial lobstermen out of business. The gear is too expensive and the technology will be rife with bugs and issues that are largely unknown at this time (as all new technologies and theoretical methods run in to such problems when tested in the real world). Known problems with ropeless gear today are as follows:

- Ropeless gear, tested even under benign marine conditions (flat bottom, minimal current/tide) have a high failure rate. This cannot work in the harsh conditions of the North Atlantic.
- There is no reliable method to deploy and retrieve the gear. Gear loss will be high and lost gear will litter the ocean bottom, adversely affecting marine species.
- Draggers will not be able to know where ropeless gear is set, and the gear will be lost to draggers.
- Ropeless gear would require an allocation of ocean floor dedicated to this system, which violates the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (requiring efficient use of nation's fishery resources).
- Again, the gear is just too expensive to be commercially viable.

The undersigned is not aware of a single experienced commercial lobsterman who supports the implementation of ropeless gear or who has successfully utilized such a system.

The Massachusetts Lobstermen's Survival Fund accordingly supports the proposed rulemaking insofar as it does not require the implementation of ropeless gear.

### **CONCLUSION**

For the foregoing reasons, the Massachusetts Lobstermen's Survival Fund respectfully opposes the proposed changes to 322 CMR 6.00, 7.00 and 12.00, but supports Mass DMF's refusing to implement ropeless gear fishing. Further restrictions to protect the northern right whale are unnecessary and unhelpful. Because they create an appearance of conservation, while not actually addressing the real problem at all, these restrictions likely result in the serious injury and death of more right whales.

Very truly yours,



Olaf Aprans

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[OCEANA.ORG](http://OCEANA.ORG)

December 18, 2020

Submitted via electronic mail to: [marine.fish@state.ma.us](mailto:marine.fish@state.ma.us)

Daniel McKiernan  
Director  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Division of Marine Fisheries  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA 02114

**Re: Comment on New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing (Nov. 13, 2020)**

Dear Mr. McKiernan:

Oceana, the world's largest international advocacy organization dedicated solely to ocean conservation, appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed amendments to Massachusetts regulations to protect North Atlantic right whales ("NARWs").<sup>1</sup> Among other things, the proposed changes to Massachusetts regulations will: 1) extend the existing Large Whale Seasonal Trap Gear Closure to all waters under the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth, 2) extend the existing gillnet closure in Cape Cod Bay, 3) retain regulatory authority to extend fixed gear closures based on documented presence of right whales in Massachusetts waters, and 4) require all vertical buoy lines break when exposed to 1,700 pounds of pressure.<sup>2</sup> Because the Commonwealth is authorizing its state waters fisheries without an incidental take permit and must obtain one immediately, additional protective measures are desperately needed and should be approved. Oceana applauds Massachusetts' prompt response to the need for action on these issues but calls on the Commonwealth to take this opportunity to strengthen the proposed changes and provide necessary protection that is informed by the best available science to protect all NARWs, adults, juveniles and calves, that swim in the waters of the Commonwealth.

Oceana agrees with the proposed amendments to better protect NARWs from the threat of fishing entanglements through expanded time-area management in all state waters during a key whale aggregation season. Oceana also supports action to empower the Commonwealth to react to the presence of right whales in Massachusetts' waters when NARWs do not follow expected abundance patterns with management measures that consider real-time or near real-time presence

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<sup>1</sup> Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Division of Marine Fisheries, *Public Hearing Notice- New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing (Nov. 13, 2020)*, <https://www.mass.gov/doc/111320-public-hearing-notice-on-new-protected-species-regulations-affecting-trap-and-gillnet/download>

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

information to modify or extend time-area management. This proposed action is similar to the highly effective measures put in place by the Canadian government in recent years that resulted in zero observed NARW deaths in Canadian waters in 2020.<sup>3</sup> The positive outcomes from Canada's strategy should be duplicated in Massachusetts. We encourage the Commonwealth to strengthen and approve the proposed amendments so that Massachusetts can serve as a model of NARW conservation for the rest of the Atlantic states.

Oceana does not, however, support the proposed requirement to use weak rope, line inserts, sleeves, or other contrivances ("weak rope") that theoretically allow NARWs to break free from entanglements in this or any rulemaking, including the upcoming Atlantic large Whale Take reduction Team ("ALWTRT") rule from the National Marine Fisheries Service. The reliance on weak rope is flawed in two ways that make it unsuitable for use in regulation.

First, the use of weak rope is expected to reduce entanglements of *adult* NARWs that can produce enough power to separate the weak rope. Weak rope has not been proven to be effective for juveniles and calves and cannot be part of a comprehensive risk management plan.<sup>4</sup> Protecting all life stages is critical for the species' recovery. Therefore, any management strategy must provide protection for each life stage to effectively meet conservation goals and cannot be focused on benefits to just one life stage.

Second, while reducing mortality and significant injury by using weak rope will minimize entanglement under the MMPA requirements,<sup>5</sup> the Commonwealth has multiple obligations for the conservation of NARWs in its requirement to obtain an incidental take permit. The permit cannot and should not ignore the more stringent state and federal Endangered Species Act requirement to avoid entanglements as a "take" to protect endangered NARWs.<sup>6</sup> Weak rope will do nothing to reduce the "take" of listed NARWs under the state and federal Endangered Species Act, as they will nonetheless have interactions with gear that qualify as a "take," because the entanglement and break event will cause harm to the individual whale.<sup>7</sup> Oceana recognizes that weak rope is central to the strategy adopted by the ALWTRT and disagrees with the Commonwealth's reliance on ALWTRT decision-making as rationale to support weak rope requirements in the current proposal.

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<sup>3</sup> No reported deaths, entanglements for North Atlantic right whales this year. CBC News September 24, 2020. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/good-year-right-whale-1.5736180>

<sup>4</sup> Arthur LH, McLellan WA, Piscitelli MA, Rommel SA, Woodward BL, Winn JP, Potter CW, Pabst DA. 2015. Estimating maximal force output of cetaceans using axial locomotor muscle morphology. *Marine Mammal Science* May 6, 2015.

<sup>5</sup> 16 U.S.C. §§ 1361 et seq.

<sup>6</sup> NARWs are protected under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act ("MESA"), Mass. Gen. L. Ch. 131A; 321 C.M.R. 10.90, which prohibits their take. 321 C.M.R. 10.04 "Take" means "to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, hound, kill, trap, capture, collect, process, disrupt the nesting, breeding, feeding or migratory activity or attempt to engage in any such conduct, or to assist such conduct." 321 C.M.R. 10.02. "Take," as defined under the federal Endangered Species Act, means "to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct." 16 U.S.C § 1531 (3)(19).

<sup>7</sup> *Id.*

Oceana has argued against the use of weak rope in its scoping comments on the federal rulemaking and repeats that opposition here.<sup>8</sup> Weak rope is not a sufficient measure to reduce Endangered Species Act takes and the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (“DMF”) must find additional means to reduce risk by implementing other management measures that avoid interactions.

Although Oceana is generally supportive of the proposals to expand time-area management to reduce entanglement risk in Massachusetts waters, Oceana offers the following two recommendations on the proposed time-area management revisions:

**1. The Massachusetts DMF must include clearly defined and objective criteria for the Director’s extension and expansion of time-area management measure.**

In the rapidly changing waters of the Gulf of Maine, reactive and responsive management will be a critical part of risk minimization for both fishing gear entanglement and vessel strikes. To its credit, the Commonwealth already includes the authority of the Director to modify both fishing and vessel speed regulations based on the “(d)irector's assessment of the documented presence of the North Atlantic right whale in Massachusetts waters.”<sup>9</sup> Oceana remains concerned, however, that the declaratory process is based solely on the discretion of the Director. Oceana repeats its 2019 recommendation that the declaratory process must be based on clearly defined and objective criteria.<sup>10</sup> The final rule extending this authority should list these objective and transparent criteria including density and duration of NARW aggregations within the management area that will trigger an extension or modification of the current management area or season. Doing so will remove ambiguity and political pressure from the process and create a stable, open response mechanism for the Commonwealth, the affected industries, and concerned stakeholders. Canada uses a similar objective process to effectively set and adjust NARW regulations and this model should be replicated in Massachusetts.<sup>11</sup>

**2. The Massachusetts DMF must expand the list of affected fisheries to include *all* fisheries with vertical lines in state waters.**

During the December 8, 2020 public hearing, an audience member highlighted that additional fixed gears, such as anchored bottom longlines, may be used in state waters with vertical lines but are not restricted by the current proposal. If the intent of this rule is to minimize vertical lines and not traps, pots or nets themselves, the Massachusetts DMF should amend its proposed rules to include *all* gears that increase risk of vertical line entanglement in state waters. This amendment could be done through an expanded list of fisheries or a simple prohibition on vertical lines, regardless of gear or fishery.

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<sup>8</sup> Oceana Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan Scoping Comments (Sept. 16, 2019)(attached).

<sup>9</sup> Massachusetts Protected Species Regulations at 322 CMR 12.04

<sup>10</sup> Oceana Comment on Proposed Amendments to Massachusetts’ Regulations to Protect North Atlantic Right Whale (February 1, 2019) (attached).

<sup>11</sup> Canada Department of Fisheries and Oceans. 2020 fishery management measures. <https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fisheries-peches/commercial-commercial/atl-arc/narw-bnan/management-gestion-eng.html>

### **Conclusion**

Oceana thanks you for considering these comments. Oceana and its staff in the United States and Canada are committed to the conservation of NARWs throughout their range and look forward to working with the Commonwealth to achieve this important goal. Massachusetts' leadership in enacting protections for NARWs at the state level is inspiring and desperately needed at this time. Oceana supports these efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gilbert A. Brogan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Gib Brogan  
Senior Campaign Manager  
Oceana  
Wayland, MA

**From:** [Nicholas Otoole](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Outer cape cod state  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 12:53:15 PM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom this may concern. Attention outer Cape state waters single trap. My name is Nick O'Toole owner operator fishing vessel Zachary T length 31 feet outer Cape state only territory Nauset to Truro ..This letter is directed towards the concerns I have and many other permit holders in OCLMA about the new proposed rules for the single pot fishery. I'm going to explain some of the dangers and difficulties that the 29 foot rule that seriously needs to be re-thought... (Area) you may not know this but the backside of Cape Cod is a very dynamic area compared to many other state water lobster areas in Massachusetts. We are not in a bay or a sound which most of the time are quite tranquil compared to OCLMA which on a daily basis consists of wind fog large seas strong tides and hurricane swells. Speaking the truth I would not Lobster off the backside of Cape Cod in a vessel smaller than 29 feet it's far too dangerous, all vessels fishing OCLMA must either cross race point rip or like myself travel around Monomoy point or most vessels cross Nauset inlet or the Chatham Inlet, all these places have to be traveled through twice a day to go lobstering and all have the tendency to try sink your boat ./Breaking waves tides and fog. These elements is why most of the boats in our area are greater than 29 feet./Gear/ when I started lobstering we set the business up to haul single pots. We had no issues one summer I even hauled gear by myself every trip, you can do that with singles they are safe. As a purchased more tags and Traps we started rigging eight pot trawls thinking it would be quicker and easier to haul but quickly found out it's extremely dangerous compared to single pot . First example I brought my good friend 17-year-old son who wanted a job lobstering, Bad idea don't ever bring someone lobstering to haul and set trawls back that have no experience, I was very lucky he didn't set himself overboard twice that day. I realize that day fishing trawls you can't go unless you have experience crew. The same summer 2018 two different vessels in our area both had crew get their foot caught in trawl setting And were pulled to the bottom in 70 feet of water luckily both were wearing knives and manage to cut them selves free, they both had blown eardrum's and water in lungs but luckily they didn't drown and lucky they had fast acting captains For the last two seasons I've hired one of my best friends who Has hauled and set hundreds of eight pot trawls with me without incident until November 5, 2020 that changed , we were setting back in weather conditions 4 the 6 foot seas 20 kn of wind my third crew started yelling whoa whoa whoa and Jason had got his foot tangled in ground line pinned in corner of Boat, two seconds away from being shot out of the stern and down with trawl in 130 feet of water thank God I heard Billy and put Boat in Full reverse and was able to untangle his foot. What I'm getting at is these trawls Are very dangerous and it only takes one time. Illuminating single pots from OCLMA Will most likely cause crew deaths. Like I said earlier my boat is 31 feet in my opinion is it's really too small for trawls , where single pots can be safely deployed. One other point is our area is very congested and trawl set on top of trawl is extremely dangerous and most likely will be happening on a regular basis. OCLMA needs a exemption from this rule or Mark my word, there's going to be loss of life. We all know lobstering is dangerous but the safest way to Lobster in OCLMA is single pots and that's why it has been that way for generations  
thank you Nick O'Toole



THE  
**PEW**  
CHARITABLE TRUSTS



Daniel J. McKiernan, Director  
Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA 02114  
marine.fish@mass.gov

December 18, 2020

**RE: Comments on Proposed Amendments to Regulations Designed to Reduce the Risk of Right Whale Entanglement in Fixed Fishing Gear and to Reduce the Harm Posed by Entanglements**

Dear Mr. McKiernan,

We are writing on behalf of The Pew Charitable Trusts, Blue Planet Strategies, and Bennett Nickerson Environmental Consulting to comment on the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries' (Division) proposed amendments to regulations at 322 CMR 6.00, 7.00, and 12.00, designed to reduce the risk of right whale entanglement in fixed fishing gear and reduce the potential harm posed by entanglements if they occur.

We support the core parts of many of the proposed measures, in particular the seasonal closure of Massachusetts waters. This closure recognizes the urgency of the situation for the North Atlantic right whale and the need for immediate and meaningful action to save the species from extinction. It recognizes that taking immediate steps to separate vertical lines in the water column from right whales when they are present is fundamental to their survival. As discussed further below, the proposed changes to closures must be improved to encourage the development of "ropeless" fishing gear – gear that is capable of fishing without the use of vertical buoy lines in the water column. Further, equally robust conservation measures are needed in federal and other state waters, especially in Maine where the majority of the lobster fishery is based. We appreciate that Massachusetts has taken this step and has set a precedent for proposals that other states, as well as the U.S. federal government, can follow. Unfortunately, without complimentary measures in other jurisdictions, there is effectively no possibility for Massachusetts to receive incidental take authorization.

As you know, the North Atlantic right whale is critically endangered and needs immediate help from state and federal governments in order to recover. The greatest threat to right whales in U.S. waters is entanglement in fishing gear. The latest statistics are grim. Since the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) declared the Unusual Mortality Event (UME) for the right whale in 2017 there have been a total of 32 known confirmed right whale deaths from human interactions, specifically from entanglements and ship strikes – NMFS attributes 8 of those deaths to entanglement. In addition, 13 whales are known to have suffered serious injuries – 12 of these are attributed to entanglement. NMFS presumes these whales have died or will die from

their injuries, bringing the total number of confirmed or presumed dead right whales to 45 since the UME began in 2017. Of the 20 mortalities and serious injuries in the UME found in U.S. waters, 15 are attributable to entanglement. It is important to consider that these deaths represent only the known deaths of right whales – NMFS estimates the actual number of right whale deaths may be as much as 60 percent higher, which would be approximately 72 mortalities since the 2017 UME began. Further, while not all entanglements result in death or what is classified as serious injury, science shows that the effects of chronic entanglement are known to negatively impact the ability of right whales to survive and reproduce.

The most recent population estimates suggest that the right whale population is even lower than originally thought with fewer than 366 living North Atlantic right whales, and only an estimated 82 reproductively active females. According to calculations made as part of the 2018 stock assessment, which was based on 2016 population estimates, the potential biological removal (“PBR”) for right whales from entanglement, ship strike and all other human interactions, in both the U.S. state and federal waters and Canada per year, was 0.9. This PBR was used by NOAA and the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team (TRT) in 2019 to develop risk reduction targets and recommended conservation measures for meeting those targets in all New England trap/pot fisheries. The 2019 stock assessment takes into account additional right whale deaths and other updated scientific information, resulting in an even lower PBR of 0.8. Thus, the allowable number of right whales that can be taken incidentally in any jurisdiction, including Massachusetts, from any cause, remains effectively zero. Despite this, an October 26, 2020 communication from NOAA to the TRT stated that since “the population peaked at 481 in 2011, after accounting for 103 births, roughly 218 North Atlantic right whales have died of presumed [entanglements and ship strikes]—this is a rate of roughly 24 whale deaths per year.” There is no question that immediate and significant changes to protect right whales are required. We recognize that Massachusetts is taking leadership through these proposals to make the kinds of changes to fisheries operations that will reduce risk of entanglement in its state waters.

### **Required Analysis**

Currently, the fishery operates illegally in Massachusetts state waters because there is no legal biological opinion and incidental take statement, thus no takes of right whales are authorized. To ensure that the proposed rules meet the standards for receiving an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) from the federal government, the Division must complete analysis showing that the take of right whales in Massachusetts will be reduced to levels effectively equal to zero. This analysis must be based on the most recent commercial and scientific information available, some of which is referenced above, including an updated PBR and level of estimated risk reduction, so that the Division and NOAA Fisheries can determine whether the proposed measures would qualify Massachusetts fisheries for an ITP.

### **Required Action by Neighboring States and the Federal Government**

Neither the federal government nor other New England states have developed comprehensive rules that will reduce the incidental take of right whales to levels that will meet PBR and other statutory requirements. However, right whales move in and out of Massachusetts waters

therefore the Commonwealth should formally request that the federal government, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and potentially other states develop and implement strong complementary measures that are necessary to achieve the overall required reduction in take. Because of the urgency of the situation, this request should include a recommendation by the Commonwealth that the federal government use emergency authority available under federal law to immediately close some parts of federal waters to vertical line gear (for example, as outlined in The Pew Charitable Trusts June 18, 2020 Petition for Interim and Permanent Rulemaking, attached). As noted, although Massachusetts has proposed strong measures, without risk reduction in neighboring jurisdictions, it is unlikely that Massachusetts will be able to meet the thresholds necessary to receive an ITP.

### **Fixed Gear Closures and Ropeless Fishing Gear:**

1. Large Whale Seasonal Trap Gear. We support the expansion of the Large Whale Seasonal Trap Gear Closure from the existing closure north and east of Cape Cod from February 1 – April 30 to include all waters under the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth. We encourage the Division to continue to rigorously monitor whale activity in state waters and adjust the dates of this closure as appropriate, with particular attention to the beginning of the closure in January if right whales are present. As noted in more detail below, the new rules should allow for the use of ropeless fishing gear within closed areas with carefully designed and monitored conditions.
2. Conch Pot Fishery. We also support including the Conch Pot Fishery in the Large Whale Seasonal Trap Gear Closure with adjustment to the haul-out period to coincide with the April 30 trap closure, or the date as adjusted due to the presence of whales.
3. Recreational Lobster and Crab Trap Fishery. Similarly, we support the proposed new closed season for the Recreational Lobster and Crab Trap Fishery from the Tuesday after Columbus Day to the Friday before Memorial Day, or as adjusted due to the presence of whales.
4. Ropeless Fishing Gear. The proposed rules do not address ropeless fishing gear, thus Massachusetts regulations would continue to effectively prohibit the use of such gear except in cases where an exempted fishing permit (EFP) and/or letter of authorization (LOA) is issued. In order to facilitate and encourage the adoption of ropeless gear, so that lobster fishermen can fish in areas closed to vertical lines, the proposed rules should be amended to include a ropeless gear definition. The Division should develop programs that will encourage ropeless fishing in both open and closed areas, but testing in closures should only be done under carefully controlled conditions through EFPs and LOAs. For example, ropeless fishing within a closure could be limited or restricted in areas where whale density is high. We believe that allowing controlled and carefully regulated use of ropeless gear will allow for the sustainable coexistence of trap/pot gear and North Atlantic right whales, as well as many other marine mammals.

The Division stated during public hearings that gear conflict remains a primary challenge to ropeless fishing. As the Division is aware, efforts are underway to address gear conflict through fishing trials with gear marking technology, as well as a forthcoming gear marking workshop that will be held in early 2021 to discuss and agree upon a universal method to mark buoyless gear and reduce gear conflict associated with ropeless fishing. We encourage the Division to take an active role in these discussions and contribute to the development of gear marking solutions.

We also recognize that experimental ropeless fishing inside closed areas could result in additional risk to right whales from groundlines and vessel traffic. This risk is not well defined and should be evaluated under the noted conditions, and within the larger context of the importance of ropeless gear development throughout the fishery, where the reduction in risk from the removal of vertical lines would be substantial. Careful access to closed areas is important for providing efficient fishing opportunities for Massachusetts fishermen in order to help offset the economic burden from extended closures. Additional measures could be implemented to limit the number of vessels in a closure. For example, fishing vessel access could be prioritized while other vessel traffic is limited, and changes could be made to vessel traffic routes. A recent paper out of Dalhousie University concluded that for small vessels at least, a combination of speed restrictions and crew posted to watch for surfacing whales may be an effective way to reduce the incidence of whale injury and mortality from vessel strikes.<sup>1</sup> The Division has already reduced vessel speeds in critical state waters as part of the Small Vessel Speed Restricted Area and should continue to evaluate when and where to reduce vessel speeds.

### **Trap Gear Restrictions:**

5. Weak Rope and Maximum Buoy Line Diameter. We support implementation of these measures, however, they are not solutions that prevent right whale entanglement or eliminate takes. Additional research is required to assess the degree to which they could help an entangled whale free itself and reduce the seriousness of injuries. We recognize, however, that the changes are relatively easy to incorporate and might be helpful as a mitigation measure to reduce the seriousness of the injuries to right whales and other animals during the transition to ropeless fishing. If implemented, weak links must be carefully monitored to ensure they work as intended, e.g., that the weak links are included at the correct places throughout the line, and do not result in the use of additional line which could increase the risk to right whales. We also encourage the Division to consider requiring the use of weak rope in groundlines as well as vertical buoy lines, which could also be used as part of some ropeless gear configurations.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed regulations designed to reduce the risk of right whale entanglement and reduce the potential harm posed by entanglements if they

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<sup>1</sup> Kelley, et. al., Marine Mammal Science, *Assessing the lethality of ship strikes on whales using simple biophysical models*, Oct. 2020

occur. The proposed regulations are a significant step in the right direction and demonstrate the Division's recognition that immediate and robust protections for right whales must be implemented. If strengthened and combined with actions to speed the transition to ropeless fishing systems, in our view there is no question that trap/pot fishing can sustainably coexist in the same waters as right whales.

Sincerely,



Peter Baker  
Project Director  
Conserving Marine Life, New England and Atlantic Canada  
The Pew Charitable Trusts



K. Purcie Bennett-Nickerson, Attorney  
Bennett Nickerson Environmental Consulting



Roger Fleming, Attorney  
Blue Planet Strategies

- cc. The Honorable Wilbur L. Ross Jr., Secretary of Commerce, U.S. Department of Commerce  
Dr. Neil Jacobs, Acting Under Secretary of Commerce for National Oceanic Atmospheric Association (NOAA)  
Chris Oliver, Assistant Administrator for NOAA Fisheries  
Samuel D. Rauch III, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NOAA Fisheries  
Michael Pentony, Regional Administrator, Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office

**From:** [Susan Reichter](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 12:39:36 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Director Daniel McKiernan,

Massachusetts can be a leader in the fight to save the North Atlantic right whale.

With less than 400 individuals remaining, the North Atlantic right whale is one of the most critically endangered marine animals in the world. Entanglement in fishing gear and collisions with ships are pushing the species towards extinction. We must take strong action today before it's too late to save them.

North Atlantic right whales migrating through the waters of the East Coast must navigate a maze of deadly vertical rope. Ropeless fishing gear can be the solution that we need to save right whales and keep fishermen on the water.

A viable pathway for permitting ropeless fishing gear should be included in the new proposed regulations in order to fully address the issue of entanglement. Removing vertical buoy rope from the water and providing a permitting structure for fishermen to legally utilize 21st century technology is the only long-term solution to reduce the entanglement risk to right whales while ensuring a sustainable future for Massachusetts fishing communities.

cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Jeff Dearman](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Thursday, December 17, 2020 9:10:06 PM

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Dear Director Daniel McKiernan,

Massachusetts can be a leader in the fight to save the North Atlantic right whale.

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Laura DeRosa](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 3:49:34 PM

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Dear Director Daniel McKiernan,

Massachusetts can be a leader in the fight to save the North Atlantic right whale.

With less than 400 individuals remaining, the North Atlantic right whale is one of the most critically endangered marine animals in the world. Entanglement in fishing gear and collisions with ships are pushing the species towards extinction. We must take strong action today before it's too late to save them.

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Steve Budrow](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [McKiernan, Dan \(FWE\)](#); [Glenn, Robert \(FWE\)](#); [Reed, Story \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment 12-8-20 meeting: lobster fishery and whales  
**Date:** Thursday, December 17, 2020 9:40:34 PM

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Director McKiernan,

I am a commercial lobsterman fishing out of Rockport. I have been owner/operator for 19+ years and have worked hard to build my business from a 20' open skiff with a 126 traps 19 years ago to now, a full operation with a federal permit and a newly built boat. In other words, I am invested for the long run. I have a few comments after listening to the public meeting from Tuesday, Dec 8th:

1) I think if DMF is going to cap student permits and create a hardship for Commercial permits there should also be a cap on recreational permits, not just a shortened season. You said it yourself that these people abandon gear and from my experience, not only do they abandon gear in masses, they don't properly mark it so enforcement would be hard to tell whose gear is abandoned and they do not understand whale safe gear. I've had rec pots tangled with me and they're using heavy braided dock line with no trap markings. Rec guys have no respect for the investment we commercial guys put into this fishery and do not care about the whale issue. Capping the trap permits and explaining why will bring awareness to this whale issue for rec fishers, might even promote more dive permits since that harvest is whale safe. Your presentation said you have over 6000 rec permits, which at \$60 per is a lot of income for DMF and I know you do ventless work from that. What I would propose is that you increase the cost of the commercial lobster permit renewed yearly. I would propose \$600 which in the grand scheme is nothing compared to how much switching over gear is going to cost. As a comparison, I have a New Hampshire landing permit that costs me \$500 a year just to land, never mind make a solid living. A condition of the permit increase would be that the permit fees or increased fees are used to support the lobster fishery specifically. That might be for the ventless survey or other research or bycatch reduction. I would also support an increase to \$2.00 a tag for our trap tags. Maine does this and the funds are directed to enforcement of the fishery.

2) I've always wanted better enforcement from the EPOs. I think they're a joke but DMF seems to not have much say there. I would hope there will be a better showing of enforcement because of the whale issues but the real problem is bad eggs all around. If you're the guy taking illegal lobsters, you're also the guy who probably isn't following the other rules because you don't care about the fishery. The guy taking shorts and v-notches isn't morally invested in fishery. He doesn't care about the future of the lobster stock and if he's not concerned about the fishery itself, he won't be bothered with this whale issue either. Right now it is critical that lobstermen follow the rules to prevent entanglements and since EPOs don't seem to care I would ask DMF to impose a 1 year suspension of a lobster permit for any major fisheries violation and take it indefinitely for multiple offenses. This follows suit with Maine, New Hampshire and Rhode Island. Often times DMF and the Court's Judges seem sympathetic to the violators. I don't care about the judges or the thief who profits off my conservation, I care about the future of this fishery and I feel that it's time DMF took a more stern approach with gross violations just like our neighbouring States. MA has been the most proactive state when

it comes to large whale protections, it's time that DMF at least get to the same level of permit prosecution as these states which will help in these whale protections by holding these offenders accountable and showing the rest of the fleet that if the rules aren't followed, lobster or whale related, DMF will take action. Support a system that lets the serious fishermen stay invested in this fishery.

3) I'm not completely on board with the full state waters closure from Feb 1 - April 30. I understand this is big showing from MA to get the ITP but I can't say I agree with whether it's valid. Right whales focus in Cape Cod Bay and Mass Bay but their transiting pattern can change after that as they go north. That time of year the catch is low but the price is higher, sometimes going to \$10-\$11/lb. A lot of state guys hang up anyway until May but for the ones that don't, that's a huge loss with not a lot of reasoning behind it (no entanglements in the northern MA waters). You also have not left any time for these guys to make arrangements for storage. I am totally opposed to wet storage and there's a part of me that is happy about this but I can't look a northern guy in the face and say there's a good reason for it. Average trap storage, if you can even find a place to put 800 traps, is \$2-3/trap. That's a big ask for these smaller inshore guys and seriously, it's even harder to find that space. Not everyone has a home with a yard or a yard big enough to put them in, some Towns have By-laws that will not allow storage of fishing gear in yards and then there's the enormous task of getting them out of the water with usually smaller boats for the inshore fleet. You made the comment in the meeting that you would even recommend these guys start bringing in gear now. Truthfully, that's callous of you. We've had a shit year where prices are bouncing back from Covid and we're getting \$5.25/lb and you want them to bring in their gear because you gave them 1.5 months notice? Could you find a home in 1.5 months and throw down \$1600 knowing that you would have no means to pay for it after that? 1.5 months? Although I agree with the path your taking to get the ITP, I don't agree with this. What I would recommend is a compromise: any MA waters outside of the already enforced Mass Bay closure, you would allow 400 traps to remain out during this time Feb-Apr and reassess next year - earlier than 1.5 months notice, if you are going to require all 800 traps to be pulled. This will give guys time to find better storage for their gear, be able to go out and haul something if the price is right, DMF can say they've reduced it by 50% for those months, guys can incorporate their businesses to plan on collecting unemployment for next year, and DMF is not giving away too much right away as they have in the past. Give NOAA 400 traps, don't give them 800 for this new closure. Call it restricted access not a full closure.

4) Your presentation didn't mention speed restrictions but your draft language includes it. The way it's worded it sounds like you intend to allow exemption to the 10kt rule for boats 65' and larger. I am so absolutely opposed to this exemption because it's not in the true nature of the conservation you say you're trying to achieve. Any boat in those MA restricted waters should follow the 10kt rule, especially larger vessels with less stopping power and less maneuverability. What these whale lovers don't realize is that the worst offenders are the whale watch boats run by the New England Aquarium and other vessels like BHC ferries and merchant shipping. This is not an assumption, it's something I've seen time and time again through my AIS system. We may have a target on our back for entanglements but vessel strikes pose a more serious threat in our waters and should be addressed to the same degree that the lobster fishery is. Truthfully if you mean to close down all of state waters to fishermen in the interest of whale conservation, why are you not willing to do the same by imposing a 10kt speed restriction on all vessels for the same time period? You're willing to hurt small businesses but not large companies?

5) I know this meeting was not about Ropeless fishing but when that time comes, give far more notice and weigh-in from fishermen than you did with this meeting. And I don't mean the MLA. There is a substantial amount of us, mainly northern MA guys that do not agree with the way MLA has handled some of this whale stuff - slow to play, no comments on the first federal proposals, limited incorporation of the northern voice, ect. It's good that DMF is involved in a ropeless study but they're cramming this down our throats and we need a strong voice. I gave my peace about it during your meeting but I have far more to say about it and its role in the future of this fishery.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments and your time in reading them.

Sincerely,  
Steve Budrow  
F/V Mary B  
Rockport, MA



Rocky Neck Lobster Co II Inc. dba Cape Ann Lobstermen  
111 E. Main St  
Gloucester, Ma 01930  
978-559-7988

December 17, 2020

Dear Director McKiernan,

I am writing to you not only as a shoreside business owner who relies on the Massachusetts lobster fishery but also as the wife of a commercial lobsterman as well as a seafood consumer who lives in the Commonwealth. I am deeply concerned about the proposed closure of state waters from Feb 1-April 30th as it will not only affect me personally but many of the boats I do business with as well as my employees. I am a woman owned business and my employees are more than 50% minorities with families whom they all support. This closure would be devastating to not only the fishermen themselves but also the shoreside facilities the lobster industry supports. I find it mind boggling you would expect a fulltime lobsterman with one month's notice to have the means and time to bring in his 800 traps he has fished for most of his life and never had to land all his gear. The average fulltime lobstermen do not have a yard or storage space that will hold 800 lobster traps. It is extremely unfair to expect someone to stop their line of work with one month's notice due to a decision the state is making based on very little scientific evidence.

There simply is not data showing high aggregation of right whales North of Cape Cod Bay during the months of the proposed closure, so I am confused as to what this is going to accomplish. It is going to cause a major disruption in many fishermen's lives and accomplish very little. I understand the state is trying to work towards NOAA issuing an ITP but I do not think the state needs to take such extreme measures without the proper research and data sets in such a short timeframe. It feels as though this decision was extremely rushed and once it passes there is no going back. You are asking your fishermen to give up a piece of their profession and have many wondering what is next?

I think it is in the best interest of all the stakeholders that this decision will affect if the DMF holds off on closing all state waters to lobster fishing from Feb 1-April 30th until further research is done and more stakeholder outreach is conducted and analyzed. I agree changes need to be made to keep our lobstermen fishing while providing additional protection to the right whales, but I do not feel this closure is the correct form of protection they need and

truthfully, I do not think it is going to make any difference or appease NOAA. Massachusetts has already given more than any other state in the fight to save right whales and I would hope we could take the time to hear from NOAA and react in an appropriate fashion that will work the best for everyone involved. I know everyone is never going to be happy and this is part of life but as always, the lobstermen/fisherman are getting the short end of the stick with very little warning and consideration. This is one step closer to rope less fishing which is 100% not feasible or economical for this industry as it currently stands.

Thank you for your time and hard work to try and keep the fisheries strong in Massachusetts.

Best Regards,  
Tessa Browne  
Owner  
Cape Ann Lobstermen

**From:** [jer lop](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** public comment on single trap fishery in OCLMA  
**Date:** Thursday, December 17, 2020 10:34:46 PM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

My name is Jeremy Loparto, second generation Outer Cape Lobster Management Area permit holder. In regards to public comment on regulation change to lobster gear, I am writing to you on behalf of myself and many others from the OCLMA. We strongly oppose limiting single traps to vessels only under 29'. Primarily a single trap area, I will briefly explain how different the OCLMA is from the rest of the state.

As many know, the OCLMA is a very small portion of the states lobster permits. This small group of permit holders is compromised all with unique situations. Trap allocations are all different numbers based on cuts many years ago. So few allocation rights are available to purchase is why the price is as high as \$500 per trap tag. As well, many of these permit holders were forced to give up their federal permits due to trap tag transfer restrictions. Historically any OCLMA permit holder would agree our fishery is formed out of three fleets, Provincetown, Nauset, and Chatham. Mostly all single trap fishermen. An exception is some chatham boats which fish federal historically because they have to travel twice as far to get to the same depth in the southern waters.

Single traps have always been the primary way to fish in the OCLMA going back to the first fishermen in the area. Single traps provide the safest way to fish, especially if you have a smaller allocated permit and can't hire a crew. Singles also provide less gear conflict with the majority of permit holders in state waters. Trawls and singles simply don't mix well. Trawls have to be set very far apart due to extreme danger and risk of being entangled in another trawl. When two trawls become entangled you are essentially forcing your vessel and equipment beyond safe operating limits. The biggest risk for a small boat hauling singles around trawls is this exact factor. You risk capsizing, serious injury or death from exceeded operating limits.

Strictly judging vessel size to safely fish trawls is very inaccurate and a bad conclusion. Safely fishing trawls you need to have gear very well spaced. We don't have this opportunity in the OCLMA being in such a small area. Area 1 Federal permits are for sale with automatic 800 tag allocation everyday. But the OCLMA Federal permits are not available to us because of history rulings and tag transfer restrictions. We are unable to expand and safely space trawls apart if we were to all switch. Fishing trawls safely also requires a boat designed to do so, and a crew. A vessel size of over 29' is simply meaningless to fish trawls without extensive modifications. Some absolutely needed modifications could include rope locker, stronger davit, reinforced wash rails, snatch block, hauler motor, hydraulic pump, hydraulic clutch, is just a start.

Many of the OCLMA vessels are over 29' because we experience much harsher ocean conditions. The severe difference is not comparable to Cape Cod Bay or other inshore state areas. Captains that have fished singles in this unique area their whole career would take a crippling blow if required to switch to trawls. Gear changes, vessel modifications, and hiring more crew when you can't afford it is a uphill battle many won't be able to overcome. Proposed changes would also make permit values plummet. Fishermen in the later years of their careers would no longer be able to sell a business for its true value. Younger fishermen who recently bought into the OCLMA would be left with a business worth substantially less then they

paid for. I hope my supporting comments help understand the importance of single traps in the OCLMA, and how devastating it would be to take these away. Everyone supports making the fishery safer for right whales, but single traps have never hurt them or caused a deaths we found out from the studies 6 years ago. We are a very small amount of permit holders in the OCLMA that wish to continue to fish single traps. If singles continue to be permitted it should not matter if you are 29' or bigger. Taking this away would create extreme conflict and hardship. I hope you strongly consider an exemption, or additional safety measures to allow everyone to continue fishing singles.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Loparto  
OCLMA Permit #017075  
774-722-1664  
Toptrap06@yahoo.com

**From:** [Michael Moore](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 2:45:37 PM

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Director McKiernan

MASS DMF

251 Causeway Street, Suite 400,

Boston, MA 02114

Dear Dan,

Under the provisions of M.G.L. c. 30A, and pursuant to the authorities found at M.G.L. c. 130 §§ 2, 17(10), 17A, 80 and 104, the proposed Mass DMF regulations are a step in the right direction. However, it is unclear that the parlous status of the North Atlantic right whale species allows such incremental steps, which seem to be focused more on the ongoing legal ping pong, than a home run. They are also limited to Mass waters, when there is a far broader problem at hand. Vessel and rope trauma risk is present wherever North Atlantic right whales go. Which is essentially the Continental shelf between Florida and Newfoundland.

Introducing weak rope will reduce entanglement mortality and morbidity to some degree, but it will not eliminate them.

I understand that Mass DMF has funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to investigate the 'ropeless' option, widespread use of which will have a far more lasting impact in reducing mortality, and equally importantly, the health and hence reproductive success of live animals. This is excellent. For ropeless systems to be practical and sufficient, there needs to be urgent and aggressive work to solve its current shortfalls (and solutions): user safety, cost (massive government subsidy), efficiency (development), conflicts with other fishing gear (universal virtual gear position marking and communication), and not yet legal in commercial use in the NW Atlantic (make it legal). It has to be widespread in US and Canada, Federal and State waters wherever right whales go.

Thus for two reasons the MASS lobster fishery is being penalized unfairly.

1. The weak rope 'solution' is not much more than the weak link fiasco. It will put the state waters fishery through another round of gear-tinkering hell, and will come up short.
2. Asking them to go through with this while other areas where North Atlantic right whales come and go, but do not have to is illogical and unreasonable.

Michael Moore

Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

Opinions my own.

**From:** [VRC Rods](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Regulations to protect right Whales  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 11:06:04 AM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales. I don't want to rehash statistics you already know, but just a friendly reminder about what is truly at stake. I understand that lobster fishing creates jobs and food sources, but the Right Whale also is part of a large ecotourism that produces a much broader income base for businesses on the east coast. Cap Cod and the Islands, Cape Ann, and Boston all thrive with tourism, and the whales are a large part of that. On a human level, we owe it to these animals to give them a better chance to survive within our invasive practices. After all, we are the ones trying to benefit on what we can harvest from the ocean, why do we have to destroy irreplaceable things to do it? As the superior beings, we know that there are solutions to every problem, with Rope-less technology at least being one of them. Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts. DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, which is at least a logical step to take. With the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots, it would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles, let's at least provide a legal option.

We are one of the most advanced and wealthiest countries on the planet, certainly we can progress in an appropriate manner.

Regards,

Bruce Vetre  
VRC Rods  
203-980-3068

**From:** [Dale Borges](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Resonse to Dec 8 & 9, 2020 Public Hearing  
**Date:** Thursday, December 17, 2020 5:33:17 PM

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Good Afternoon:

I would like to share my thoughts about this proposal.

I have been lobstering for over 25 years in the Buzzards Bay and Vineyard Sound. I have only seen 2 or 3 whales in these area during my years of fishing. I have never heard of any entangled whale in the Buzzards Bay or Vineyard Sound, It seems to be a drastic measure to initiate this proposal for a whale that MAY come through this area. There are NO facts to back up this closure. It was stated in your our webinar. To have a closure of three months will hurt many lobster businesses. Most of the small lobstermen are barely surviving, between high expenses and the low selling price. Not lobstering for three months will make many families struggle. We are real people and real families. We are hard working dedicated people that have passion to provide excellent food for public consumption, which is a basic need for the world.

Lobstering has been a vital fishery for hundreds of years. With this proposal this will put many lobstermen in unnecessary hardship. When is this going to end? When we are out of business?

The endanger species you should be helping is the lobstermen/fishermen. They provide food for the world, and risk their life daily.

I hope this does not fall on deaf ears. We struggling everyday. Our way of life and the future of lobstering is in jeopardy.

Regard

Henry Borges  
Lobsterman

**From:** [Heilman, Jorie B](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Right Whale Protection  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 10:50:51 AM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

I care deeply about the ocean and have devoted myself to teaching others about the wonders of marine science. So I have to urge you to take more definitive action to save the North Atlantic right whales. Entanglements need to stop in order to have them not go extinct. Ropeless gear seems like an answer that helps the whales without preventing fishermen from fishing. Closures alone won't be enough to save the species.

“In the short, medium, and long term we need to broaden the efforts that both countries are making to slow vessels down and reduce entanglement risk. Without that, it's too little, too late.”

-Michael Moore ,WHOI Research Scientist

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.  
Jorie

**From:** [johnnyred5962@comcast.net](mailto:johnnyred5962@comcast.net)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Right Whales  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 9:02:51 AM

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I've been fishing out of Hull Ma. for a long, long time, I've never cseen a tangled whale, never. I do believe it happens, but not nearly as much as people say, ship strikes are the biggest problem the poor whale faces, and you know it, so do all the others, putting the lobsterman out of business is easy for you all to do, to much money in shipping to stop them, we all know, money talks. Taking food off the tables of hundreds of fisherman & woman is not the solution, and you know it, especially when the country is in the shape its in, redirect the shipping during whale migration, keep those huge monsters away from the whales. thank you, John Redman, fisherman.

*Sent from my LG Mobile*

**From:** [Lauren Devine](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Right Whales  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 2:49:15 PM

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To whom it may concern:

The right whale population is dwindling: scientists estimate that there are only 366 left. Now is the time to act. Tell DMF that we need greater measures in order to save right whales from extinction.

Thank you for your time.

**From:** [Brissette](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Rope-less trap technology  
**Date:** Thursday, December 17, 2020 4:19:31 PM

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Dear DMF Director Dan Kiernan,  
We are writing to express our strong support for the immediate transition to the use of acoustic "ropeless" trap technology with no end lines that snarl whales!

Paul Brissette  
Vineyard Haven, Ma. 02568

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Marissa Monahan](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 3:37:50 PM

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Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Marissa Monahan  
Westwood, MA 02090

**From:** [Jeanine Mindrum](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 3:37:36 PM

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Thank you.

Jeanine Mindrum  
Westborough, MA 01581

**From:** [Kevin McDonough](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 3:37:26 PM

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Thank you.

Kevin McDonough  
Cambridge, MA 02138

**From:** [Carole Smudin](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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Thank you.

Carole Smudin  
Bridgewater, MA 02324

**From:** [Kayla Venckauskas](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 3:36:55 PM

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Thank you.

Kayla Venckauskas  
Wareham, MA 02571

**From:** [Mary Roffey](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 3:36:37 PM

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Mary Roffey  
Marshfield, MA 02050

**From:** [Pamela J. Smith](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 3:36:23 PM

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Thank you.

Pamela J. Smith  
Milton, MA 02186

**From:** [maureen landry](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 3:36:09 PM

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maureen landry  
Wilmington, MA 01887

**From:** [Kimberly Drucker](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 3:35:58 PM

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Thank you.

Kimberly Drucker  
Brookline, MA 02445

**From:** [Ally Matteodo](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 3:35:31 PM

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Ally Matteodo  
Revere, MA 02151

**From:** [Donna Parente](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 3:35:20 PM

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Donna Parente  
Milford, MA 01757

**From:** [Craig Fifield](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 3:35:06 PM

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Craig Fifield  
Stow, MA 01775

**From:** [Melanie Lary](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 3:34:48 PM

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Melanie Lary  
Watertown, MA 02472

**From:** [Lozz Starseed](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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Lozz Starseed  
Lexington, MA 02420

**From:** [Robert Strelke](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 3:34:18 PM

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Thank you.

Robert Strelke  
North Easton, MA 02356

**From:** [Margaret Bruno](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 3:33:58 PM

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Margaret Bruno  
Marshfield, MA 02050

**From:** [Phil Schuster](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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Thank you.

Phil Schuster  
Shelburne Falls, MA 01370

**From:** [Kristin Gray](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 3:33:31 PM

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Thank you.

Kristin Gray  
Arlington, MA 02476

**From:** [Talia Blatt](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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Thank you.

Talia Blatt  
Lexington, MA 02420

**From:** [Elana Katz rose](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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Elana Katz rose  
Sharon, MA 02067

**From:** [Anne-Marie Fitzgerald](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 3:32:49 PM

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Anne-Marie Fitzgerald  
Somerville, MA 02145

**From:** [Ruth Quinones](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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Ruth Quinones  
Brooklyn, NY 11218

**From:** [Joe Roy](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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Joe Roy  
Burlington, MA 01803

**From:** [Courtney Chandel](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 3:32:09 PM

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Courtney Chandel  
New York, NY 10024

**From:** [Alexandra Estrada](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 3:31:54 PM

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Alexandra Estrada  
Cambridge, MA 02140

**From:** [Laura Kuzma](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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Laura Kuzma  
Palm Harbor, FL 34683

**From:** [Claire Sterling](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
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Claire Sterling  
New York, NY 10040

**From:** [Lynne Gordon-Watson](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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Lynne Gordon-Watson  
New York, NY 10128

**From:** [Kimberly Vaz](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 3:30:49 PM

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Kimberly Vaz  
Wesley Chapel, FL 33543

**From:** [Susan Ponchot](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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Thank you.

Susan Ponchot  
Sunrise, FL 33351

**From:** [Jeannette Remak](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 3:30:20 PM

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Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

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Jeannette Remak  
Sunnyside, NY 11104

**From:** [Karen Thomas](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 3:29:59 PM

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Karen Thomas  
Garden City, NY 11530

**From:** [Renee Hughes](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 3:29:46 PM

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Renee Hughes  
Quaker Hill, CT 06375

**From:** [Todd Milligan](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 3:29:31 PM

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Todd Milligan  
Punta Gorda, FL 33982

**From:** [Anna Lukaszewicz](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 3:29:13 PM

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Anna Lukaszewicz  
, 14219-2841

**From:** [Laurie Storm](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 3:28:52 PM

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Thank you.

Laurie Storm  
Buffalo, NY 14207

**From:** [Geri Ott](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 3:28:42 PM

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Geri Ott  
Matlacha, FL 33993

**From:** [Alissa Sollitto](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 3:28:22 PM

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Alissa Sollitto  
Endicott, NY 13760

**From:** [Wendy Cushing](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 3:28:07 PM

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Wendy Cushing  
Cheektowaga, NY 14227

**From:** [Dina Tedeschi](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 3:11:35 PM

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Dina Tedeschi  
Worcester, MA 01606

**From:** [Jason Eckardt](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 3:11:15 PM

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Jason Eckardt  
Kerhonkson, NY 12446

**From:** [j Diamond](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 3:11:01 PM

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j Diamond  
New York, NY 10014

**From:** [Carlos Luna](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 3:10:51 PM

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Carlos Luna  
New York, NY 10038

**From:** [Camillo Musumeci](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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Camillo Musumeci  
Hauppauge, NY 11788

**From:** [Tim Kirk](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 3:10:26 PM

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Tim Kirk  
New York, NY 10011

**From:** [Ellen Hallahan](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 3:10:11 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

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Thank you.

Ellen Hallahan  
Honeoye Falls, NY 14472

**From:** [Lynette Huang](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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Lynette Huang  
New York, NY 10011

**From:** [Michael Scarola](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
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Thank you.

Michael Scarola  
New York, NY 10014

**From:** [Timothy Brennan](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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Thank you.

Timothy Brennan  
, 14425-1121

**From:** [Claudia Leff](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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Thank you.

Claudia Leff  
Mamaroneck, NY 10543

**From:** [Michael Leff](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 3:08:57 PM

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Michael Leff  
Williamsburg, MA 01096

**From:** [Terri Knauber](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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Thank you.

Terri Knauber  
Cheektowaga, NY 14225

**From:** [Lorraine Sanchez](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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Lorraine Sanchez  
New York, NY 10002

**From:** [Francine Traniello](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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Francine Traniello  
Middleboro, MA 02346

**From:** [Peter Wood](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 3:07:55 PM

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Peter Wood  
Cornwall, NY 12518

**From:** [Richard Guier](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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Richard Guier  
New York, NY 10025

**From:** [Sharon Morgan](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
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Sharon Morgan  
Dedham, MA 02026

**From:** [tyler harrington](mailto:tyler.harrington)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
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tyler harrington  
Schuyler Falls, NY 12985

**From:** [Richard A Paschel](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
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Richard A Paschel  
Flushing, NY 11355

**From:** [Rosemarie Pace](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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Rosemarie Pace  
Middle Village, NY 11379

**From:** [doug krause](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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Thank you.

doug krause  
Fargo, ND 58102

**From:** [D.H](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 3:06:08 PM

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Thank you.

D H  
Fort Pierce, FL 34945

**From:** [Andrew Scott](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 3:05:52 PM

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Thank you.

Andrew Scott  
Atlantic Beach, FL 32233

**From:** [Nancy Stamm](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 3:05:37 PM

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Thank you.

Nancy Stamm  
, 34945-2534

**From:** [Cheri Moore](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 3:05:25 PM

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Thank you.

Cheri Moore  
, 34287-3431

**From:** [Sandra Dash](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 3:05:11 PM

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Sandra Dash  
Lake Mary, FL 32746

**From:** [Martha D. Perlmutter](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 3:04:58 PM

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Martha D. Perlmutter  
New City, NY 10956

**From:** [Peggy Alt](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 3:04:40 PM

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Peggy Alt  
Philmont, NY 12565

**From:** [Morgan Pica](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 3:04:26 PM

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Morgan Pica  
Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411

**From:** [Sheri Carl](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 3:04:10 PM

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Sheri Carl  
Ashland, MA 01721

**From:** [Jacqueline Zimmerman](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 3:03:56 PM

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Jacqueline Zimmerman  
Palm Beach, FL 33480

**From:** [Judith Zufi](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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Judith Zufi  
Coral Gables, FL 33156

**From:** [Lauren Devine](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 3:03:19 PM

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Lauren Devine  
Boca Raton, FL 33486

**From:** [Roberta Young](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 3:03:05 PM

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Roberta Young  
White Plains, NY 10603

**From:** [Linda Jennings](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 3:02:44 PM

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Linda Jennings  
Sanibel, FL 33957

**From:** [Jeffrey Bains](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 3:02:31 PM

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Jeffrey Bains  
, 32159-6210

**From:** [Andrea Taylor](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 3:02:11 PM

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Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

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Thank you.

Andrea Taylor  
New York, NY 10016

**From:** [Lynn Richardson](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 3:01:56 PM

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Lynn Richardson  
Pinellas Park, FL 33782

**From:** [martha burton](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 3:01:42 PM

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martha burton  
Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202

**From:** [Teresa Ligorelli](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 3:01:29 PM

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Thank you.

Teresa Ligorelli  
Wellington, FL 33414

**From:** [Linda Fighera](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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Thank you.

Linda Fighera  
New Rochelle, NY 10805

**From:** [Linda Bishop](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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Linda Bishop  
Winter Haven, FL 33881

**From:** [Mimi Gertler](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 3:00:53 PM

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Mimi Gertler  
New York, NY 10019

**From:** [Mark Caso](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 3:00:36 PM

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Thank you.

Mark Caso  
Clearwater, FL 33755

**From:** [Julie Pellman](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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Julie Pellman  
Brooklyn, NY 11201

**From:** [gabrielle Granofsky](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 3:00:10 PM

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gabrielle Granofsky  
Brooksville, FL 34602

**From:** [Maureen Conway](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 2:59:45 PM

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Maureen Conway  
Bonita Springs, FL 34135

**From:** [Pat Foster](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 2:59:28 PM

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Pat Foster  
Middletown, NY 10940

**From:** [Shelley Driskell](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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Shelley Driskell  
Weeki Wachee, FL 34607

**From:** [Matt Ezero](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
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Matt Ezero  
Peru, NY 12972

**From:** [Susan Cox](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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Susan Cox  
New York, NY 10021

**From:** [Emily Peters](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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Thank you.

Emily Peters  
Brooklyn, NY 11209

**From:** [Andrea Ferguson](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 2:55:48 PM

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Andrea Ferguson  
Granby, MA 01033

**From:** [James Daiute](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 2:55:04 PM

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Thank you.

James Daiute  
Braintree, MA 02184

**From:** [Julie Norris](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 2:54:15 PM

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Thank you.

Julie Norris  
N Attleboro, MA 02760

**From:** [Cate Ferson](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 2:53:29 PM

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Cate Ferson  
Belmont, MA 02478

**From:** [Tracey Harrah](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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Thank you.

Tracey Harrah  
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110

**From:** [Fawn King](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 2:51:26 PM

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Thank you.

Fawn King  
Millstone Township, NJ 08535

**From:** [Karrin Schoonover](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 2:50:41 PM

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Karrin Schoonover  
New York, NY 10025

**From:** [Glenda Lilling](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 2:49:36 PM

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Glenda Lilling  
Port Chester, NY 10573

**From:** [elaine sloan](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 2:48:28 PM

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elaine sloan  
New York, NY 10017

**From:** [Michael Haskell](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 2:47:14 PM

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Michael Haskell  
Scarborough, ME 04074

**From:** [Marco Athie](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 2:46:24 PM

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Marco Athie  
Arlington, MA 02474

**From:** [Richard Stern](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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Richard Stern  
New York, NY 10023

**From:** [Amy Henry](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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Amy Henry  
Northampton, MA 01060

**From:** [Clare Kelly](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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Clare Kelly  
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

**From:** [Arthur Schurr](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 2:42:45 PM

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Arthur Schurr  
Brooklyn, NY 11201

**From:** [Debra Elder](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 2:42:01 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Debra Elder  
Bloomingburg, NY 12721

**From:** [Paula Mahoney](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 2:41:16 PM

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Paula Mahoney  
Billerica, MA 01821

**From:** [Daniel O'Brien](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 2:40:22 PM

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Daniel O'Brien  
Milton, NY 12547

**From:** [Jane Chertoff](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 2:39:22 PM

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Thank you.

Jane Chertoff  
Hudson, MA 01749

**From:** [Linda Patton](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 2:38:28 PM

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Thank you.

Linda Patton  
New York, NY 10025

**From:** [Cathy Carleton](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 2:37:32 PM

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Cathy Carleton  
Hadley, NY 12835

**From:** [Kathleen Corby](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 2:36:47 PM

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Thank you.

Kathleen Corby  
Pine Plains, NY 12567

**From:** [Ellen Stewart](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 2:35:53 PM

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Thank you.

Ellen Stewart  
, B987YL

**From:** [Robert Console](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 2:34:41 PM

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Robert Console  
Stow, MA 01775

**From:** [Aleksey Gershgorin](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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Aleksey Gershgorin  
Brooklyn, NY 11235

**From:** [Tom Anderson](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 2:32:51 PM

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Tom Anderson  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33334

**From:** [Lynn Skibinski](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 2:32:07 PM

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Lynn Skibinski  
Tonawanda, NY 14150

**From:** [Maureen Santry](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 2:31:35 PM

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Maureen Santry  
East Sandwich, MA 02537

**From:** [George Bittner](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 2:30:54 PM

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George Bittner  
Cleveland, NY 13042

**From:** [Teresa Cook](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 2:29:58 PM

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Teresa Cook  
Milton, MA 02186

**From:** [Liz Mahony](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 2:27:26 PM

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Thank you.

Liz Mahony  
New York, NY 10025

**From:** [Patti Packer](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 2:24:44 PM

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Thank you.

Patti Packer  
Schenectady, NY 12302

**From:** [naomi holoch](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 2:19:00 PM

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Thank you.

naomi holoch  
Narrowsburg, NY 12764

**From:** [Andy Berkvist](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 2:14:41 PM

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Thank you.

Andy Berkvist  
Northampton, MA 01060

**From:** [Sandra Costa](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 2:11:51 PM

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Thank you.

Sandra Costa  
Mount Vernon, TX 75457

**From:** [Brenda Hardin](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 2:09:23 PM

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Thank you.

Brenda Hardin  
Lake Placid, NY 12946

**From:** [Alyssa Lary](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 2:05:17 PM

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Thank you.

Alyssa Lary  
Arlington, MA 02474

**From:** [Kurt Hirschenhofer](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 2:02:46 PM

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Kurt Hirschenhofer  
Millis, MA 02054

**From:** [Jude Jennings](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 1:57:01 PM

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Thank you.

Jude Jennings  
Methuen, MA 01844

**From:** [David J. Lafond](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 1:51:57 PM

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David J. Lafond  
Holyoke, MA 01040

**From:** [Mary Hubbard](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 1:45:57 PM

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Mary Hubbard  
North Falmouth, MA 02556

**From:** [Linda Flores](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 1:43:00 PM

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Linda Flores  
Medford, MA 02155

**From:** [Alissa Lerman](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 1:40:29 PM

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Alissa Lerman  
Cambridge, MA 02138

**From:** [Alexandria Lang](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 1:36:37 PM

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Alexandria Lang  
Buffalo, NY 14217

**From:** [Amanda Speicher](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 1:34:30 PM

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Amanda Speicher  
North Stonington, CT 06359

**From:** [Kelly Harney](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 1:31:58 PM

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Thank you.

Kelly Harney  
Providence, RI 02906

**From:** [Janice Banks](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 1:28:17 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Janice Banks  
Center Barnstead, NH 03225

**From:** [Christine Anderson](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 1:25:46 PM

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Christine Anderson  
Mashpee, MA 02649

**From:** [Monica Briggs](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 1:21:57 PM

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Thank you.

Monica Briggs  
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

**From:** [mary weiner](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 1:18:57 PM

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Thank you.

mary weiner  
Sandy Hook, CT 06482

**From:** [sakshi awatramani](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 1:16:31 PM

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Thank you.

sakshi awatramani  
, 400052

**From:** [J.P. Sherman](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 1:11:33 PM

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Thank you.

J.P. Sherman  
Orford, NH 03777

**From:** [Declan DeVito](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 1:09:03 PM

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Declan DeVito  
Great River, NY 11739

**From:** [Dmitry Pristin](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 1:05:14 PM

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Thank you.

Dmitry Pristin  
Westford, MA 01886

**From:** [Roger Davies](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 1:00:10 PM

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Roger Davies  
Melrose, MA 02176

**From:** [Sabrina DiMauro](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 12:57:44 PM

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Sabrina DiMauro  
New Haven, CT 06511

**From:** [Stephanie Woodman](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 12:53:14 PM

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Stephanie Woodman  
Stamford, CT 06902

**From:** [Cathie Mestemaker-Harris](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 12:50:45 PM

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Cathie Mestemaker-Harris  
Plainfield, CT 06374

**From:** [Amy Freeman](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 12:48:38 PM

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Amy Freeman  
Bedford, NH 03110

**From:** [Debra Giannetti](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 12:45:00 PM

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Debra Giannetti  
Watertown, CT 06795

**From:** [Joan Ellen Mccoy](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 12:40:32 PM

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Joan Ellen Mccoy  
Fairfield, CT 06825

**From:** [Nicole Stanley](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 12:36:48 PM

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Thank you.

Nicole Stanley  
Mashpee, MA 02649

**From:** [Maryanne Preli](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 12:34:18 PM

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Thank you.

Maryanne Preli  
Windsor Locks, CT 06096

**From:** [Andrew Alibozek](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 12:29:39 PM

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Thank you.

Andrew Alibozek  
Newton, MA 02458

**From:** [Lillian Screponi](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 12:26:36 PM

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Thank you.

Lillian Screponi  
South Dartmouth, MA 02748

**From:** [Kimberly Noel](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 12:23:58 PM

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Thank you.

Kimberly Noel  
Sparta, NJ 07871

**From:** [Jennifer Skinder](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 12:21:27 PM

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Thank you.

Jennifer Skinder  
Montpelier, VT 05602

**From:** [Marko P](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 12:19:03 PM

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Thank you.

Marko P  
Washington, DC 20003

**From:** [Carmen Danae](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 12:13:08 PM

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Carmen Danae  
Los Angeles, CA 90068

**From:** [Jessie Steigerwald](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 12:09:51 PM

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Thank you.

Jessie Steigerwald  
Lexington, MA 02421

**From:** [Janette Lozada](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 12:05:14 PM

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Janette Lozada  
Laconia, NH 03246

**From:** [Jake Herman](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 11:59:36 AM

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Jake Herman  
Brighton, MA 02135

**From:** [Bonnie Frank](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 11:57:10 AM

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Bonnie Frank  
Mapleton, ME 04757

**From:** [Stephanie Walsh](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 11:52:57 AM

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Stephanie Walsh  
Chestnut Hill, MA 02467

**From:** [Rachel Gregg](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 11:49:45 AM

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Rachel Gregg  
Exeter, NH 2579

**From:** [Elizabeth Marino](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 11:46:23 AM

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Elizabeth Marino  
Goffstown, NH 03045

**From:** [stacey leoutsakos](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 11:42:32 AM

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Thank you.

stacey leoutsakos  
Astoria, NY 11105

**From:** [Aline Tetrault](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 11:40:04 AM

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Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

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Thank you.

Aline Tetrault  
Southington, CT 06489

**From:** [Dominique Bouillet](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 11:37:52 AM

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Thank you.

Dominique Bouillet  
, 22700

**From:** [Amber Stone](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 11:35:17 AM

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Thank you.

Amber Stone  
, B3 IQS

**From:** [Patricia Walsh](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 11:30:02 AM

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Thank you.

Patricia Walsh  
North Truro, MA 02652

**From:** [Eli Burger](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 11:25:42 AM

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Thank you.

Eli Burger  
Arlington, MA 02474

**From:** [Dena Vardaxis](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 11:23:08 AM

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Thank you.

Dena Vardaxis  
Braintree, MA 02184

**From:** [chris kelly](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 11:22:23 AM

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Thank you.

chris kelly  
Franklin, MA 02038

**From:** [V B](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 11:19:51 AM

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V B  
Syracuse, NY 13205

**From:** [Victoria Cantrell](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 11:17:31 AM

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Victoria Cantrell  
Yarmouth Port, MA 02675

**From:** [Amy Mallardi](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 11:14:09 AM

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Amy Mallardi  
Oxford, CT 06478

**From:** [Tatum Williamson](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 11:09:12 AM

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Tatum Williamson  
Cambridge, MA 02138

**From:** [Kimberly Bouchard-Shapiro](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 11:04:34 AM

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Kimberly Bouchard-Shapiro  
Durham, CT 06422

**From:** [Joyce Dannheim](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 11:02:03 AM

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Joyce Dannheim  
Greenwood Lake, NY 10925

**From:** [Nathalie WANGERMEZ](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 10:57:04 AM

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Thank you.

Nathalie WANGERMEZ  
, 22031-1214

**From:** [Lauren Sheytanian](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 10:51:43 AM

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Lauren Sheytanian  
Burlington, MA 01803

**From:** [Valli Hamilton](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 10:46:14 AM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Valli Hamilton  
Oak Bluffs, MA 02557

**From:** [Edward Casabian](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 10:42:48 AM

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Thank you.

Edward Casabian  
Chatham, MA 02633

**From:** [Nicole Coleman](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 10:40:16 AM

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Thank you.

Nicole Coleman  
Lincoln, MA 01773

**From:** [Dina Tedeschi](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 10:37:33 AM

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Thank you.

Dina Tedeschi  
Worcester, MA 01606

**From:** [Maria Wood](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 10:33:06 AM

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Thank you.

Maria Wood  
Chestertown, MD 21620

**From:** [Emily Cobb](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 10:30:58 AM

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Thank you.

Emily Cobb  
Cambridge, MA 02138

**From:** [Jennifer Koopmans](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 10:27:46 AM

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Thank you.

Jennifer Koopmans  
West Barnstable, MA 02668

**From:** [Mm Mill](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 10:25:20 AM

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Mm Mill  
La Mesa, CA 91944

**From:** [Ellen Prior](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 10:20:15 AM

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Thank you.

Ellen Prior  
, 98042-4986

**From:** [Blanca osuna](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 10:14:50 AM

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Blanca osuna  
, 2751

**From:** [Brian Greene](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 10:08:55 AM

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Brian Greene  
Cambridge, MA 02141

**From:** [Jacqueline Schmidt](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 10:06:16 AM

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Jacqueline Schmidt  
Coloma, MI 49038

**From:** [Michelle MacKenzie](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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Michelle MacKenzie  
Menlo Park, CA 94025

**From:** [Karen King](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 10:00:11 AM

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Karen King  
, N6K1L4

**From:** [Erica Cranden](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 9:57:03 AM

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Erica Cranden  
Flemington, NJ 08822

**From:** [Rebecca Gentry](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 9:54:32 AM

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Thank you.

Rebecca Gentry  
Albuquerque, NM 87108

**From:** [Tara De Veau](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 9:50:12 AM

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Thank you.

Tara De Veau  
Norton, MA 02766

**From:** [Debbie Mccarthy](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 9:47:13 AM

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Thank you.

Debbie Mccarthy  
Phillips, ME 04966

**From:** [Lindi Higgins](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 9:44:25 AM

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Thank you.

Lindi Higgins  
Brewster, MA 02631

**From:** [Ann Middlebrough](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 9:41:54 AM

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Thank you.

Ann Middlebrough  
, 3196

**From:** [Jane Taylor](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 9:37:45 AM

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Thank you.

Jane Taylor  
, KW17 2BA

**From:** [Eirin Leirfjord](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 9:32:37 AM

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Thank you.

Eirin Leirfjord  
Monroe Bridge, MA 1350

**From:** [Leslie DiCola](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 9:26:46 AM

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Thank you.

Leslie DiCola  
Newburyport, MA 01950

**From:** [Nichole Cirillo](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 9:21:02 AM

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Thank you.

Nichole Cirillo  
Cambridge, MA 02139

**From:** [Brian Burhoe](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 9:18:32 AM

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Thank you.

Brian Burhoe  
Charlton, MA 01507

**From:** [Eric Chast](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 3:38:05 PM

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Thank you.

Eric Chast  
Leominster, MA 01453

**From:** [DAVID DEMSKI](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** single traps  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 1:46:20 PM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

My name is David Demski writing to you a second time on the single trap issue>I disagree on limiting the size of vessel hauling single traps. This fishery is self regulated our traps are close to shore from April to September and most bring gear home I have for 40 years. There are so few fishing single traps now not sure what the gain is? less vertical lines? By going to trawl fishing especially Gosnold you will have more vertical line cause roughly 12 to 15 more fisherman who were scared to fish singles are going to bomb the area and wipe out the breeding stock that's been there since the single law was enacted and without a closure trawls will be there year round especially in the winter not being tended and catching wild life that will end up dying, there is too much greed in our industry today conch pots 50 feet long fishing 300 traps with three men?? 50 foot lobster boats as well fishing traps without tags to make ends meet. There needs to be more enforcement to the laws we have now but think a closure is a good way to eliminate some of the negativity in the lobster industry if you're a good fisherman on your game not over extended you can make a living in 9 months.

**From:** [Jennifer Knight](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for Acoustic Rope-less Trap Technology  
**Date:** Thursday, December 17, 2020 9:44:20 PM

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Dear DMF Director Dan Kiernan,

My children and I are writing to express our strong support for the immediate transition to the use of acoustic “ropeless” trap technology with no end lines that snarl whales. We love these beautiful creatures and they need us humans to use all of the scientific advancements and resources to keep them from harm.

In Love & Light,

*Jennifer, Ethan & Alex*

Jennifer L. Knight & Ethan & Alex  
455 State Road PMB 123  
Vineyard Haven, MA 02568  
Intuitive Life Coach~Transformational Facilitator~Mother  
**MAMAS IGNITE!**  
Pronouns: she/her/hers [Here's Why](#)  
508-221-2615  
[jennifer@mamasignite.com](mailto:jennifer@mamasignite.com)

**From:** [Phil daRosa](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for Acoustic Rope-less Trap Technology  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 1:13:52 PM

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Dear DMF Director Dan Kiernan,

I am writing to express my strong support for the immediate transition to the use of acoustic "ropeless" trap technology with no end lines that snarl whales!

Along with ship strikes, vertical and ghost ropes have been decimating our North Atlantic right whale species. We CAN lift awareness of how new tech and evolving maritime law WILL protect such timeless ocean creatures. We WILL steward these lives entrusted to us.

Sincerely,

Phil daRosa - Owner/Engineer  
**The Print Shop - Recording studio.**  
Martha's Vineyard, MA.  
[www.printshopaudio.com](http://www.printshopaudio.com)  
[info@printshopaudio.com](mailto:info@printshopaudio.com)  
[Facebook](#) - [Instagram](#)  
m: [413-265-5064](tel:413-265-5064)



**From:** [Mancuso, Carl](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Silva, Jared \(FWE\)](#); [McKiernan, Dan \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Teledyne Marine Comment re Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 3:39:18 PM  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)

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Hello Director McKiernan. I am the product line manager for Teledyne Marine's Benthos product line that consists of subsea communication, recovery, and positioning products and systems. Allow me to make some comments regarding the public discussion on Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing that is referenced on your website, <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/proposed-amendments-to-division-of-marine-fisheries-regulations>.

Teledyne Marine has been working in the Ropeless Fishing technology arena for several years. Along with our partners, we have developed, tested, and demonstrated several systems that would allow for deployment, identification, tracking, and recovery of lobster traps and trawl lines using acoustic modem technology. A conceptual overview, which included some short video clips from actual test runs, was presented (virtually) recently at the Ropeless Consortium by our VP of Sales & Marketing, Dan Shropshire. His 10 minute long presentation can be viewed at the following location:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/12mC5SuO4ovBInYHNQO8X5tbEgiKboVA>

Please let me know if you have any trouble downloading from this site and I can send you the video file directly.

To summarize, using products and technology that are available today, it is possible to use subsea wireless acoustic communication to replace the vertical lines presently used to mark and retrieve lobster or crab traps.

I am available if you wish to discuss this in more detail, or if you require further information.

Thank you and regards, Carl

=====

**Carl Mancuso**  
Director of Product Line Management  
Teledyne Benthos  
Direct: +1 508 563 1641  
Mobile: +1 508 564 3103  
[carl.mancuso@teledyne.com](mailto:carl.mancuso@teledyne.com)

Teledyne Marine  
49 Edgerton Drive  
North Falmouth, MA 02556  
Phone: +1 508 563 1000

<http://www.teledynemarine.com>



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Teledyne Confidential; Commercially Sensitive Business Data

**From:** [Michael Terrenzi](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Trap Fishing comment Attn: Director Mckiernan  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 2:28:27 PM

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Hello Director Mckiernan,

My name is Michael Terrenzi, I am a lifetime resident of Massachusetts. I am a 35 year commercial fisherman. I have owned my current vessel the Kelly J Doc. # 686039 for 22 years. I have fished in the conch pot fishery for 12 years and I would like to make a few comments in response to the DMF E-mail I received on 11/13/20.

-Concerning the conch trap haul-out period being extended through April 30: I do not see this as being a problem, but maybe we can get these two weeks back in December. So, in a warmer fall year like this one; we could go a little longer. In a year like this one the conch fishing does not shut off until after the 15th of December.

-Concerning the limiting of the student lobster permits: My daughter Anna is a National Honor Society Graduate of Nauset High School. She is a full-time environmental engineering student at the University of Vermont. She has had to leave school and work remotely the last two semesters due to the pandemic. After next semester this will represent 75 percent of her college career thus far will have been done remotely. (she is in her second year) I am concerned that she and her generation will miss out on the kind of in person experiences attending an engineering program at a school like UVM means to offer. As a result she is also starved for some safe outdoor activities. She has recently expressed interest in getting a student lobster permit. I would like to help her with this and hope this opportunity will remain available to her and her younger brother, now and in the future. So I am opposed to limiting this opportunity for our students at this time. I hope if these permits are limited someday that they will still be available to children of commercial fishermen.

Thank you for hearing my comments,

Michael Terrenzi  
14 Indian trail  
Harwich, MA  
02645

**From:** [Bonnie Frank](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Whales  
**Date:** Thursday, December 17, 2020 9:57:15 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I attended your last town meeting and did not feel that you actually answered the important questions. My main one is - Why is your plan faster and cheaper than a system without rope that is doing fine elsewhere? Your reply was cost and study and unsure how to mark them. Your proposal appeared as expensive and both were about a year and a half of study. If your way fails we lose time, money and whales. If ropeless fails you lose just time and money. Marking them I'd assume would be the same as others working well. If spending on studying ropeless while trying yours why not vice - versa. Would only make sense to take approach of least resistance at the cost of an animals extinction? You are fish and game the care people of them? Would love a reply on this if you have time, tried at town hall but never got to me. Thank you

Sincerely Bonnie Frank

Words have no power to impress the mind without the exquisite horror of their reality.  
Edgar Allan Poe



Massachusetts Conch Association  
P.O. Box 40117  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
[massconchassociation@gmail.com](mailto:massconchassociation@gmail.com)

December 15, 2020

Sent via: dan.mckiernan@state.ma.us

Director McKiernan

251 Causeway Street, Suite 400

Boston, MA 02114

Dear Director McKiernan,

On behalf of the Massachusetts Conch Association, (MCA) we respectfully submit this letter of comment to the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (MADMF), regarding the draft regulations that are designed to reduce the risk of endangered right whales becoming entangled in fixed fishing gear and reduce the potential harm posed by fixed fishing gear if a right whale interacts with it.

The MCA, a 501 (c) (6) was established in May, 2019 by concerned fishermen to support and protect the interests of the conch fishery in Massachusetts and to work to ensure the future sustainability and profitability of the fishery. The conch fishery is already facing extreme measures for the size regulations for conch and it could shut down an iconic and profitable fishery here in the Commonwealth. It is difficult to understand how the conch fishery is a danger to the right whale.

The conch fishery takes place in bays, rivers and shoal water depths where rights whales do not transit. The conch fishery is not a year-round fishery. An extension of a 15 - day period at the beginning of the conch fishing season with an already over-regulated fishery is unreasonable.

The MCA does **NOT SUPPORT** the DMF's proposal to extend the opening of the conch fishing season by 15 days.

The MCA does **NOT SUPPORT** the DMF's proposal prohibiting the fishing of single lobster traps onboard vessels with an overall length of 29' or greater. In the event that this regulation applies to the conch fishery in the future the MCA does **NOT SUPPORT** it.

The conch fishery has had a negative impact due to the Covid-19 pandemic with less demand and lower prices. While some of the conch fishermen and dealers received monetary assistance from the CARES ACT a good majority did not qualify for the funding.

In closing, the MCA would like to express our position on rope-less fishing. While rope-less was not on the list of proposed right whale conservation measures, it did take up a lot of time on the questions and comments section of the public hearings.

The MCA **DOES NOT SUPPORT** rope-less technology. There is a lot of misperception when it comes to the use of rope-less fishing. Over the last 5 years there has been a major push to make it mandatory for the commercial lobster fishermen and the fixed gear fishermen to transition over to rope-less gear to further save the right whales. This gear transition to rope-less is being pushed for year-round implementation. The magnitude of the economic undertaking would be well over millions of dollars to outfit the commercial fishing industry here in the Commonwealth just in the first year.

The individual cost would be an estimated \$190,000 per fisherman to outfit their gear to go fishing. There is an average of 10% gear loss each year and this would have to be replaced year after year. The gear loss would likely increase dramatically as the technology has yet to be tested on large scale multi-disciplined fisheries. This transition will take hundreds of dollars, decades to implement and outfit every commercial fishing vessel that is on the ocean.

The lack of buoys on the ends of fixed gear would cause lots of chaos among fixed gear fishermen and mobile gear fishermen.

The commercial conch fishing industry deserves to know that their state is going to be on their side to save the commercial fishing industry not only for today, but for future generations to come.

The Massachusetts Conch Association members thank you for the opportunity to comment on these regulation proposals.

Sincerely,

MCA Board of Directors

[massconchassociation@gmail.com](mailto:massconchassociation@gmail.com)

**From:** [Joe Gallagher](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Attn. Director Daniel McKiernan  
**Date:** Thursday, December 17, 2020 10:45:31 AM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Director McKiernan, my name is Joseph Gallagher, and I am writing you in regards to the proposed state water closure for fixed gear. I am a lobsterman down on the south shore, in Weymouth, I've been one for 28 years. Throughout this time I have fished in Boston harbor and on the South Shore I have never seen a right whale in state waters.

We as Massachusetts coastal lobsterman have been asked to do more than any other lobstermen on the East Coast. We have used breakaways and we have marked our bouy lines accordingly. We have also dealt with closures in federal waters to protect the right whales. I feel that this closure is just one more step and putting us out of business permanently. How much more can we be expected to do and survive as fisherman. I ask that you do whatever is in your power to please stop this from happening. I feel if we give in to this measure then in the future they will come back for even more restrictions on us. That has been the way it is gone for the last 10 years, the more we give the more they want to take, and we are now at the breaking point. Please do what you can to allow us to keep fishing, no more closures please.

Thank you, Joseph Gallagher

**From:** [Kate McGovern](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Thursday, December 17, 2020 12:11:24 PM

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

null

Dear Director McKiernan,

As a resident of Massachusetts, where the ocean forms an integral part of our state identity, keeping our beaches, coasts, and marine species and habitats healthy matters deeply to me. North Atlantic right whales, which swim in Massachusetts' waters, are one of our most at-risk species.

First, I'd like to thank you and the Division of Marine Fisheries for drafting a strong proposed rule. In particular, I was glad to see the inclusion of more seasonal closures to fishing during the time of year that right whales are likely to be in the area. This is the type of bold action we'll need to save these whales.

I write today to urge you to include language that implements a pathway for the development and implementation of ropeless fishing gear. We know that the best way to prevent entanglements is to remove rope from the water, and the development and adoption of ropeless gear will provide a long term solution to this problem.

Sincerely,  
Kate McGovern  
38 Harvard Rd Unit 1  
Unit 1  
Belmont, MA 02478

**From:** [Peggy Kocoras](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Thursday, December 17, 2020 11:49:53 AM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Peggy Kocoras  
179 Main St  
Northfield, MA 01360

**From:** [Tim Eddy](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Thursday, December 17, 2020 1:47:32 AM

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Tim Eddy  
44 Cushing St  
Ashburnham, MA 01430

**From:** [Lucie Burke](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 11:13:52 PM

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

null

Dear Director McKiernan,

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Sincerely,  
Lucie Burke  
14 Abbot St Unit 1A, Unit 1A  
Unit 1A  
Marblehead, MA 01945

**From:** [Michael Mccarthy](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 9:23:37 PM

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

null

Dear Director McKiernan,

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Sincerely,  
Michael Mccarthy  
76 Lyall St  
West Roxbury, MA 02132

**From:** [Elliott Blass](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 9:09:43 PM

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

null

Dear Director McKiernan,

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Sincerely,  
Elliott Blass  
43 Norwood Ave  
Newton Center, MA 02459

**From:** [CAroL Walker](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 8:36:16 PM

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Dear Director McKiernan,

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Sincerely,  
CAroL Walker  
29 Jefferson St  
Winthrop, MA 02152

**From:** [Jean Noonan](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 7:57:31 PM

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

null

Dear Director McKiernan,

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Sincerely,  
Jean Noonan  
9 Howard St  
Newburyport, MA 01950

**From:** [Janet Tyndall](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 6:11:02 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

null

Dear Director McKiernan,

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Sincerely,  
Janet Tyndall  
156 Hager Ln  
Boxborough, MA 01719

**From:** [James Hook](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Thursday, December 17, 2020 4:05:49 PM

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

null

Dear Director McKiernan,

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Sincerely,  
James Hook  
46 Highland Ave Apt 2 Apt 2 Apt 2  
Apt 2  
Cambridge, MA 02139

**From:** [Jake Herman](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Draft Regulations to Protect Right Whales  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 9:46:11 PM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Director McKiernan,

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Kind regards,  
Jake

**From:** [Sally Orme](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Include incentives for ropeless gear  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 7:28:31 PM

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**CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

Dear Director McKiernan,

As a Massachusetts resident I strongly value both our fishing industry and the long-term survival of the very threatened Right Whale population. I applaud the DMF for its proposed amendments to the Protected Species Regulations.

What is missing from the proposed regulations, however, is the inclusion of a proposal for phasing in ropeless gear which is the most effective method of protecting whales from fishing/trap lines. From Pew Charitable Trusts:

Ropeless fishing systems are an opportunity for lobster and crab fishermen to continue operating in areas where right whales are present without further endangering these marine mammals. Investment in ropeless fishing now could lead to a future in which the lobster and crab industries use a mix of traditional and ropeless gear to sustain their economically and culturally valuable industry, leverage technology to collect important data, and protect whales.

I strongly encourage the DMF to include language in the proposed regulations that encourages the use of ropeless fishing gear.

Thank you,  
Sally Orme  
27 Wheeler Street Unit 321  
Cambridge, MA 02138

**From:** [Heather Rotondi](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Thursday, December 17, 2020 10:41:33 AM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Director Daniel McKiernan,

Massachusetts can be a leader in the fight to save the North Atlantic right whale.

With less than 400 individuals remaining, the North Atlantic right whale is one of the most critically endangered marine animals in the world. Entanglement in fishing gear and collisions with ships are pushing the species towards extinction. We must take strong action today before it's too late to save them.

North Atlantic right whales migrating through the waters of the East Coast must navigate a maze of deadly vertical rope. Ropeless fishing gear can be the solution that we need to save right whales and keep fishermen on the water.

A viable pathway for permitting ropeless fishing gear should be included in the new proposed regulations in order to fully address the issue of entanglement. Removing vertical buoy rope from the water and providing a permitting structure for fishermen to legally utilize 21st century technology is the only long-term solution to reduce the entanglement risk to right whales while ensuring a sustainable future for Massachusetts fishing communities.

cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Tania Cardoso](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 6:22:07 PM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Christopher Mc Gahan](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Thursday, December 17, 2020 10:26:13 AM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Katherine Miller](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Thursday, December 17, 2020 10:24:48 AM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Brenda Agnew](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Thursday, December 17, 2020 10:02:04 AM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Gabrielle Watling](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Thursday, December 17, 2020 9:26:18 AM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [J Greene](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Thursday, December 17, 2020 9:08:04 AM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Director Daniel McKiernan,

Massachusetts can be a leader in the fight to save the North Atlantic right whale.

With less than 400 individuals remaining, the North Atlantic right whale is one of the most critically endangered marine animals in the world. Entanglement in fishing gear and collisions with ships are pushing the species towards extinction. We must take strong action today before it's too late to save them.

North Atlantic right whales migrating through the waters of the East Coast must navigate a maze of deadly vertical rope. Ropeless fishing gear can be the solution that we need to save right whales and keep fishermen on the water.

A viable pathway for permitting ropeless fishing gear should be included in the new proposed regulations in order to fully address the issue of entanglement. Removing vertical buoy rope from the water and providing a permitting structure for fishermen to legally utilize 21st century technology is the only long-term solution to reduce the entanglement risk to right whales while ensuring a sustainable future for Massachusetts fishing communities.

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251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Jill Crosby](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Thursday, December 17, 2020 8:45:04 AM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Jeff Dearman](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 8:57:33 PM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [B Zirah](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 8:08:04 PM

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Francine Traniello](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Thursday, December 17, 2020 2:20:48 PM

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Randolph Pfaff](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment on New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Thursday, December 17, 2020 12:39:22 AM

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**CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

Dear Director McKiernan,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed amendments to regulations at 322 CMR 6.00 and 12.00. I am a Master of Public Policy student at UMass Dartmouth and a former New England Aquarium Right Whale Festival volunteer.

As a citizen who is concerned about this critically endangered species, I would strongly encourage the Division of Marine Fisheries to implement all proposed regulatory changes to protect North Atlantic Right Whales, including gillnet and trap gear closures, closures for recreational lobster and crab trap gear, and modifications to vertical buoy lines to reduce the likelihood of entanglements.

As a policy student, I understand that DMF must navigate complex legal and regulatory requirements while also facilitating collaborative solutions that find a middle ground between the often-competing interests of conservationists and lobstermen. I hope that you will continue to work with all stakeholders to address the need for rapid, iterative, and evidence-based responses to protect right whales against the very real threat of extinction.

Thank you for your time,

Randolph Pfaff  
Master of Public Policy Student  
University of Massachusetts Dartmouth

**From:** [Bryan Tucker](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Response to last week's virtual public hearings on right whales  
**Date:** Thursday, December 17, 2020 11:52:06 AM

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To Whom it May Concern:

I listened to the virtual public hearings on Dec. 8th and 9th about what the Massachusetts state government s proposing to do to help the critically endangered Atlantic right whale population. I was struck by how the ropeless solution was given short shrift. I understand this proposed solution has technological problems at the moment that make it hard for one fisherman to know where his neighbor's buoys are and that implementing it for all fishermen would be expensive. But I've been told by other environmentalists that ropeless solutions do work in different places such as California. Isn't is possible to re-consider them? Could the state put more resources into finding a way to make ropeless solutions possible here in Massachussets by seeing how they have worked elsewhere, rather than dismissing them out of hand as too expensive and not "ready for prime time," as one person commented during one of the hearings?

Please count me as one of the state's residents who wishes to see ropeless solutions take hold here in Massachusetts.

Sincerely,

Bryan L. Tucker  
resident of Boston

**From:** [Louisa](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Right Whales  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 5:57:59 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

We need greater regulations to protect the Right Whale from extinction. Please act now especially on the use of rope less lines.

Thank you for considering one of the greatest species on this earth.

Louisa Wellington

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Robert MacLean](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Robert MacLean Letter Re New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 4:18:31 PM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To: Mr. Dan Kiernan  
Director of MA Division of Marine Fisheries

**Re: Dec 8/9**

**Virtual Public Hearings:  
New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing**

Dear Mr. Kiernan,

Thank you and staff for holding these New Protected Species Regulations hearings last week. You all did a lot of patient reading, slide-showing, and explaining of proposals! I also want to thank you for being patient with the “ropeless traps” enthusiasts who were cluttering up the CHAT feature, prior to either the question or comment period beginning.

That said, I concur with the young college student’s comment the second night, as to DMF’s creating an *appearance* of discouraging commentary on **ropeless tech** being part of the hearings. Yes, you mentioned as an aside, that the hearings were not *about them*. *But you may have made an* announcement as to ropeless tech being pursued and in current development, if not by MA DMF, then by private and nonprofits both, and why it could not be in the draft proposals per se. (I certainly suspect its great expense and need for further research and funding, are the reasons.)

Overall, you guys did a great job explaining the expanded closure areas and expanded closed seasons of lobster trap and pot fishing (if perhaps read a bit fast, without the tech ability to keep a map up at all times, or at least returning to it during the question and comment period).

I am an ocean swim coach, lifeguard, past certified PADI Divemaster, as well as a co-curator of ocean films at an arts center. It is very clear to me that while these proposed changes certainly would cut down on the incidences of right whales and other marine life being entangled in rope and reducing injury, they simple are too little, too late. Due to the extent to which the right whale population has been decimated by ship strikes in past years, and now more by trap ropes/gear which these new steps will only partly eliminate, **these proposals do not sufficiently eliminate the entanglement risk altogether— which needs being done!**

It might seem OK if such proposals were preliminary steps to ropeless fishing... but they were not presented as such. ***Ropeless fishing’s goal and transitioning need to be in further DMF plans, research and hearings, for DMF to have widespread community transparency that you are doing ALL THINGS NECESSARY to eliminate any and all risk ropes are to right whales and marine life.***

In the end, current proposals (which may have sufficed some years ago) are not at all

sufficient to preserving our iconic and endangered right whale community, and preventing death and injury to other marine life. Such manmade and plastic materials do not belong in a clean ocean anyway.

Yours, for our ocean planet, in Peace—  
Bob

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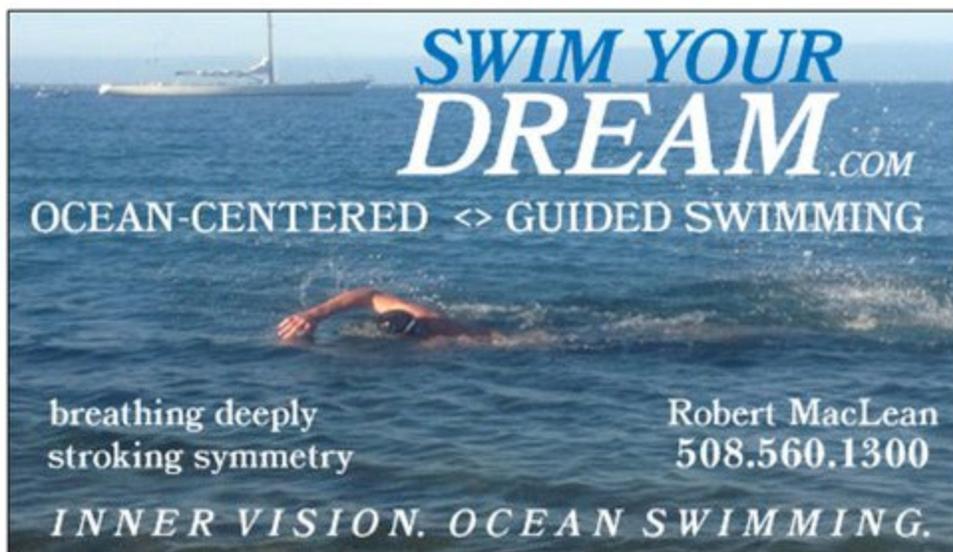
Note: To members of Martha's Vineyard community active as shellfish farmers and/or conservation-minded creators; please consider weighing in this comment period which ends Dec 18, at 5pm. The shallows where shellfish are cultivated are not hospitable (deep enough) for whales anyway, therefor, highly doubtful that when/if ropeless tech is brought NMF law for lobster/pot traps, it would affect any ocean farming of shellfish and seaweed using rope.

For a report on lawsuit prompting these DMF hearings last week to develop an environmental plan in order to apply for an Incidental Take Permit, plus how National Marine Fisheries Service violated the Endangered Species Act, see this article:

[https://www.bostonglobe.com/2020/04/09/metro/major-ruling-right-whales-federal-judge-rules-that-regulators-violated-endangered-species-act/?p1=Article\\_Inline\\_Text\\_Link](https://www.bostonglobe.com/2020/04/09/metro/major-ruling-right-whales-federal-judge-rules-that-regulators-violated-endangered-species-act/?p1=Article_Inline_Text_Link)

Robert MacLean  
(508) 560-1300

[robertmaclean3@icloud.com](mailto:robertmaclean3@icloud.com)  
<https://www.instagram.com/oceanswimguide/>  
<https://www.swimyourdream.com>



**From:** [Joseph Fellows](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 5:42:13 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Joseph Fellows  
Forestdale, MA 02644

**From:** [Linda Flores](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 5:37:41 PM

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Thank you.

Linda Flores  
Medford, MA 02155

**From:** [Sheryle Tamagini](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 5:35:13 PM

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Thank you.

Sheryle Tamagini  
South Dartmouth, MA 02748

**From:** [Lori Enos](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 5:32:37 PM

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Thank you.

Lori Enos  
Forestdale, MA 02644

**From:** [Patricia Fox](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 5:30:07 PM

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Thank you.

Patricia Fox  
South Egremont, MA 01258

**From:** [Helen RoweDrake](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 5:44:54 PM

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Thank you.

Helen RoweDrake  
West Kingston, RI 02892

**From:** [Peter MacLean](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for Acoustic Rope-less Trap Technology  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 10:59:16 PM

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**CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

Dear DMF Director Dan Kiernan,

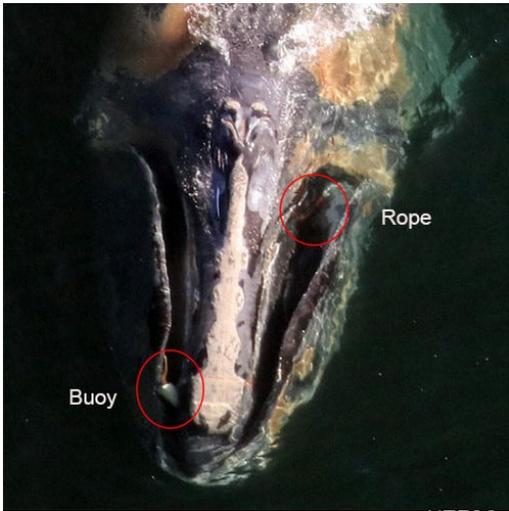
We are writing to express our strong support for the immediate transition to the use of acoustic "ropeless" trap technology with no end lines that snarl whales!

Sincerely,

Peter and Elizabeth MacLean  
79 Klondike Road  
Chelsea, VT  
05038

Pictured are a free swimming right whale; an entangled right whale; a free swimming sperm whale; and a humpback recently washed onto Vineyard South Beach (possible entanglement). Along with ship strikes, vertical and ghost ropes have been decimating our North Atlantic right whale species. We CAN lift awareness how new tech and evolving maritime law WILL protect such timeless ocean creatures. We WILL steward these lives entrusted to us.





**From:** [MOLLY MACLEAN](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** URGENT: Acoustic Ropeless Trap Technology  
**Date:** Thursday, December 17, 2020 8:44:55 AM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

DMF

Director Dan Kiernan

Dear Sir,

Please support acoustic "ropeless" trap technology with no end lines to snarl whales and other sea mammals, thank you!

Mary MacLean  
Pomfret, CT 06258

**From:** [Miranda Henne](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** post-hearing questions and comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 11:43:54 PM

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**CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

Dear Director Daniel McKiernan,

I am a cellist and teacher who lives in Boston, and I am concerned about our oceans and about the mass extinction of thousands of species that humans are causing. We need to do everything in our power to protect the remaining 366 right whales. I attended both of your hearings last week and thank you for holding them. I raised my virtual hand, but there was so much interest that I didn't have a chance to ask my questions. They are:

1. Does the study recommending 1700 lb breakable rope consider young whales? Surely the young are not strong enough to break 1700 pounds.
2. What about ropeless gear (which I'd heard a little about)?

After the hearings, I read more. I now believe that ropeless gear is the best answer, the most courageous, and the most prudent, upholding values we **need** for our own survival. What is in fact at issue here is the overall biological stability of a world. As leaders, will we think short term or long term? "The late Quarternary Extinction wants YOU," David Quammen writes. "The main cause was habitat loss and the agent of that loss was the killer-primate *Homo sapiens*, now itself extinct. *Sapiens* unaccountably violated the first rule of a successful parasite: moderation. *Sapiens* was suicidally rapacious."

The population of right whales is rapidly declining. No adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. This is in our hands, here is our chance!

From what I've learned, 1,700 lb breakable rope is not good enough to protect the young. We can't gamble on this dwindling population or on our ideals.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you,  
Miranda Henne

**From:** [Tom Tomkiewica](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Attn: Dan McKiernan  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:10:53 AM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am strongly opposed to the recent proposal of a gear restriction “closure” for the entire State of Mass coastal waters. The adverse effects of a closure is not only to the men fishing in these waters but also the small communities that we support fuel, bait, marine supply’s, shipyards, restaurants and countless other small businesses we support. The science says that there has been no interactions in our area Area2 SNE ever. If there were interactions with whales in our area I could understand but with there only being 2 interactions over the past 11 years and one in the last 10 in Area 1 north of the Cape is insane. You yourself said that the whales will move north as spring time moves along. We as a small fishery of less than 30 fishermen have bit the bullet bought back a fishery that in your own words was never coming back or just short of a disaster and finally we’re starting to benefit from all we’ve done and now shutting us down in one of our most profitable times is ludicrous !!!! The amount of line in the water at that time of year is minimal at best most likely less than 1000 end lines if you made gosnold a trawl zone. The amount of fishermen left in state waters area 2 need this time of year to survive were not like area 1 that have no fishery that time of year. This is a wrong that needs to be righted I’ve been lobstering on my own since 1992 and been going with my family since 1979 . I could never have imagined a shut down and now here it is . We’ve gone through a industry funded buyback, a tough time where lobsters were depleted do to shell disease and an oil spill and yet we’re still fishing when most thought we would go out of business. I myself have invested hundreds of thousands of dollars to make a living for myself and 2 other families off my boat and to be shut down for at minimum of 4 months when all is said and done it will be closer to 5 months is incomprehensible. We as a small fishery can’t take another hit like this it’s a dagger to the heart. We’ve done all you asked 600# breakaways , sinking ground lines , and red tracers in the line to show of an entanglement happened where it came from yet it’s never enough. WE NEED THIS TO FEED OUR FAMILIES please don’t shut us down .

Thank You : Tom Tomkiewicz F/V Intimidator

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Russell Bauer](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Commercial Fishing - Striped Bass  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 1:45:18 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Folks,

Before I consider renewing my commercial permit (striped bass endorsement) I would like to know if commercial fishing for striped bass will be allowed at the Cape Cod Canal for the 2021 season.

Thanks,

Russell Bauer Permit 168784

[russell.bauer@comcast.net](mailto:russell.bauer@comcast.net)

**From:** [Robert Clark](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 12:04:09 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

null

Dear Director McKiernan,

As a resident of Massachusetts, where the ocean forms an integral part of our state identity, keeping our beaches, coasts, and marine species and habitats healthy matters deeply to me. North Atlantic right whales, which swim in Massachusetts' waters, are one of our most at-risk species.

First, I'd like to thank you and the Division of Marine Fisheries for drafting a strong proposed rule. In particular, I was glad to see the inclusion of more seasonal closures to fishing during the time of year that right whales are likely to be in the area. This is the type of bold action we'll need to save these whales.

I write today to urge you to include language that implements a pathway for the development and implementation of ropeless fishing gear. We know that the best way to prevent entanglements is to remove rope from the water, and the development and adoption of ropeless gear will provide a long term solution to this problem.

Sincerely,  
Robert Clark  
22 Old New Salem Road  
Petersham, MA 01366

**From:** [Kelly Carlson](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 11:56:55 AM

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Kelly Carlson  
58 Eaton St  
Concord, MA 01742

**From:** [Ruth Burday](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 11:14:04 AM

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Ruth Burday  
117 Patricia Ave  
Dalton, MA 01226

**From:** [Jenne Sindoni](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 10:38:07 AM

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Jenne Sindoni  
119 Marion St  
Wilmington, MA 01887

**From:** [Brittany Gravely](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 10:16:33 AM

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

null

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Sincerely,  
Brittany Gravely  
10 Castleton St  
# 2  
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

**From:** [Preston Repenning](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 9:47:59 AM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

null

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Sincerely,  
Preston Repenning  
P.O. Box 1531  
Lanesborough, MA 01237

**From:** [Penelope Metropolis](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 12:10:34 PM

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

null

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Thank you for your efforts to help protect these tremendous creatures!

Sincerely,  
Penelope Metropolis  
3 Greeley Rd  
Winchester, MA 01890

**From:** [Bruce Boehm](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** My Renewal Permit  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 10:00:59 AM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hey Marine Fisheries Folks,

Just checking to see if my commercial renewal permit was sent out. As of today I have not received it. Friends have already received their commercial permits. I usually get mine before they do, hence my email.

My Permit Number is 150502.

Hope you can help.

Thanks,

Bruce Boehm  
PO Box 691  
Brewster, MA 02631

Phone - 508 896 8466

**From:** [jutmanb@comcast.net](mailto:jutmanb@comcast.net)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed winter lobster restriction  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 10:16:19 AM

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Can you send me a link to these proposed restriction for lobster permit holder?

**From:** [Peggy Sagan](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment  
**Date:** Monday, December 14, 2020 3:43:42 PM

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Daniel McKiernan

Director, Department of Marine Fisheries

250 Causeway Street, Suite 400

Boston, MA 02114

I am writing in support of stricter regulations to address the issue of marine mammal entanglement. The North Atlantic Right Whale population is dwindling, with injuries and death resulting from entanglement in fishing gear as these amazing creatures feed in and pass through the waters off Massachusetts. The loss of even one right whale reduces the chance that this species will survive. Although the proposed DMF regulations are a good first step, they do not go far enough. We in Massachusetts have an opportunity to protect the remaining numbers of North Atlantic Right Whales by considering the adoption of rope-less fishing gear regulations.

Living in a coastal town that relies on the fisheries, I am acutely aware of the concerns of the lobster industry about the financial impact of stricter regulations on their livelihood. However, the warming of the oceans, especially the Gulf of Maine, is a greater threat to the Massachusetts lobster industry long-term than a modification in fishing gear regulations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Peggy Sagan

55 Alves Road

P O Box 1624

Wellfleet, MA 02667

[psagan88@gmail.com](mailto:psagan88@gmail.com)

**From:** [George Mandell](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 1:32:14 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

George Mandell  
Milton, MA 02186

**From:** [Nathaniel Dadosky](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 1:27:01 PM

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Thank you.

Nathaniel Dadosky  
East Lyme, CT 06333

**From:** [Stephen Minogue](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 1:23:44 PM

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Thank you.

Stephen Minogue  
Dedham, MA 02026

**From:** [Gini Cowell](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 1:21:15 PM

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Thank you.

Gini Cowell  
Washington, DC 20500

**From:** [becky johnson](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 1:16:00 PM

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Thank you.

becky johnson  
Caribou, ME 04736

**From:** [Douglas Albertson](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 1:11:33 PM

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Thank you.

Douglas Albertson  
Belchertown, MA 01007

**From:** [Amy Freeman](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 1:05:47 PM

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Thank you.

Amy Freeman  
Pelham, NH 03076

**From:** [Nicole Mola](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 1:03:27 PM

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Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Nicole Mola  
Norwalk, CT 06851

**From:** [robin.nadel](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 1:00:55 PM

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robin.nadel  
Branford, CT 06405

**From:** [Marie Horan](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 12:57:47 PM

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Thank you.

Marie Horan  
, We need to save the right whales from extinction!

**From:** [Robin Covino](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 12:54:44 PM

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Thank you.

Robin Covino  
Milford, CT 06460

**From:** [Wendy Ruggeri](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 12:49:25 PM

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Thank you.

Wendy Ruggeri  
Naugatuck, CT 06770

**From:** [Joan Ellen Mccoy](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 12:43:54 PM

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Joan Ellen Mccoy  
Fairfield, CT 06825

**From:** [Marie Broudy](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 12:41:24 PM

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Marie Broudy  
Eastham, MA 02642

**From:** [Robert Tarlow](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 12:38:47 PM

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Robert Tarlow  
East Boothbay, ME 04544

**From:** [Jeff Reynolds](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 12:34:48 PM

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Jeff Reynolds  
Bangor, ME 04401

**From:** [Mary Harrison](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 12:29:51 PM

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Thank you.

Mary Harrison  
Centerville, MA 02632

**From:** [Robert Gerosa](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 12:27:24 PM

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Robert Gerosa  
New Fairfield, CT 06812

**From:** [Erline Towner](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 12:24:53 PM

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Erline Towner  
Milford, NH 03055

**From:** [Linda Smyth](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 12:21:22 PM

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Linda Smyth  
Enfield, CT 06082

**From:** [Donna Thomas](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 12:15:24 PM

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Donna Thomas  
Plainfield, VT 05667

**From:** [Tracy Whitford](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 12:11:22 PM

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Tracy Whitford  
Barrington, RI 02806

**From:** [Paul Sorensen](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 12:08:22 PM

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Thank you.

Paul Sorensen  
Nashua, NH 03063

**From:** [Kelly Eaves](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 12:05:52 PM

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Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

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Kelly Eaves  
Loganville, GA 30052

**From:** [Randi Byron](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 12:03:06 PM

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Thank you.

Randi Byron  
Avon, CT 06001

**From:** [Janine Moore](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 11:58:07 AM

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Thank you.

Janine Moore  
Waterville, ME 04901

**From:** [lenore sivulich](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 11:53:02 AM

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Thank you.

lenore sivulich  
New Gloucester, ME 04260

**From:** [Eileen Awsiukiewicz](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 11:49:09 AM

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Thank you.

Eileen Awsiukiewicz  
Rocky Hill, CT 06067

**From:** [Odile Sudell](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 11:46:39 AM

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Odile Sudell  
Cos Cob, CT 06807

**From:** [Brenda Roy](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 11:41:46 AM

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Brenda Roy  
Manchester, NH 03102

**From:** [Enid Breakstone](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 11:37:34 AM

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Enid Breakstone  
Manchester, CT 06040

**From:** [Rosalind Ivens](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 11:31:56 AM

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Rosalind Ivens  
Bucksport, ME 04416

**From:** [Amy Cyr](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 11:26:42 AM

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Amy Cyr  
Vernon, CT 06066

**From:** [Mary Ann Clark](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 11:23:38 AM

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Mary Ann Clark  
Weatogue, CT 06089

**From:** [William Cassidy](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 11:18:36 AM

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William Cassidy  
Belmont, MA 02478

**From:** [beth werner](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 11:14:03 AM

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beth werner  
Hamden, CT 06514

**From:** [Natalie Nowel](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 11:09:13 AM

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Natalie Nowel  
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

**From:** [Laura Leon](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 11:08:52 AM

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Laura Leon  
Costa Mesa, CA 92627

**From:** [sabina weiss](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 11:07:08 AM

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The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

sabina weiss  
, W4 3by

**From:** [Tony and Cindy Guarnieri](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 11:03:05 AM

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Thank you.

Tony and Cindy Guarnieri  
Stamford, CT 06905

**From:** [Tony and Cindy Guarnieri](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 11:00:35 AM

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Thank you.

Tony and Cindy Guarnieri  
Stamford, CT 06905

**From:** [Danny James](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 10:55:20 AM

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Thank you.

Danny James  
Brunswick, ME 04011

**From:** [Diane Petrillo](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 10:50:37 AM

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Thank you.

Diane Petrillo  
Hamden, CT 06518

**From:** [Carol Lenahan](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 10:44:59 AM

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Thank you.

Carol Lenahan  
Campton, NH 03223

**From:** [Noah Hanmer](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 10:42:08 AM

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Thank you.

Noah Hanmer  
Bristol, RI 02809

**From:** [charlie burns](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 10:39:39 AM

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Thank you.

charlie burns  
Norwalk, CT 06850

**From:** [allen price](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 10:28:06 AM

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Thank you.

allen price  
Cranston, RI 02910

**From:** [Margaret Sawyer](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 10:23:47 AM

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Margaret Sawyer  
East Lyme, CT 06333

**From:** [Kenneth Ruby](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 10:21:17 AM

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Thank you.

Kenneth Ruby  
Salem, NH 03079

**From:** [Casey Atkins](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 1:34:43 PM

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Thank you.

Casey Atkins  
Concord, MA 01742

**From:** [RICHARD MOTTA](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#); [McKiernan, Dan \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** AREA 2 Right Whale Closure  
**Date:** Monday, December 14, 2020 6:24:04 PM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Director McKiernan:

My wife and I are strongly opposed to the proposed right whale closure mainly in the Area 2 Southern New England. We believe the justification for this closure is non-existent and it will create an undue hardship on our local independent lobstermen. We believe the south coast lobster business can't take this type of economic impact. There are no right whales in these water to save and a closure in this area won't save one whale. But it will put many hard-working citizens out of business.

Thank you for your consideration,

Richard and Brenda Motta

E. Freetown, MA

**From:** [Bob Dobias](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [robert](#)  
**Subject:** Area Closure Letter Attn: Daniel McKiernan  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 1:12:55 PM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Attn: Daniel McKiernan

Hello,

I am writing this letter to voice my concern on the issue of closing access to fixed gear fishing during the months of February-April. As a small business owner and commercial fisherman, fishing helps sustain our boat building business and vice versa year round. Our boat shop employs 6 men all of whom fish through the winter in state water and it's a business model that has proven successful making a living for all of us over the last few years and improving every year.

On our particular boat, we fish through the winter fishing only relatively long trawls (16 traps) and in 20 fathom or greater water. Our end lines are 5/16 or 3/8. To my understanding, there has been no direct evidence to date that whales are becoming entangled in state water gear but more often flotsam or offshore fishing gear often from outside the country. I know whales have beached and died with "signs of entanglement" but attributing their death to vertical lines would be akin to a smoker dying in a car accident and showing cause of death to be cigarettes.

I understand the DMF is not necessarily the architect of these proposed closures and that there is a level of bureaucracy to navigate that most fisherman including myself are not completely apprised of. I would say as a fisherman, of all 7 possible regulations the DMF has outlined, 3, 4, 5, and 6 seem like reasonable first steps. Number 7 I have no comment because I am not a gill netter and I have no knowledge of instances where they have become entangled in the Cape Cod area. Number 5 should make an allowance to grandfather in anyone who is fishing singles currently because they most likely fish by themselves and there is a level of danger being added to make them change how they are currently fishing.

Number 1 & 2 seem hasty and lack any sort of evidence or science to support the closures. I would say its absolutely legal and reasonable to require those filing lawsuits and judges entertaining such filings to show indisputable evidence that Massachusetts state end lines are the direct cause of right whale mortality in those months and if that is not possible then the closure has no merit.

Commercial fishing, particularly Atlantic Lobster fishing in Massachusetts is something that is unique and special for the state to be a part of. As we know fishing is one of the oldest professions known to man, and in a world becoming largely ruled by technology, home offices, staying indoors, it provides a sense of normalcy and makes people feel good to see it happening. I remember in early April pulling into the dock in Salem and the folks out walking were happy to see a local business still working to provide a food source for local and country wide families.

There is on the other hand, of course, a group of individuals, many from out of state, who have an agenda along with their best strategy on how to save the whales. Why do they pursue this? I'm not entirely sure, some of them have probably figured out how to make a living for themselves through this pursuit, many are most likely financially solvent so they find issues like this to pursue to create some sense of purpose in their life. On their agenda, I would imagine they have developed a list of their perceived opponents to whales and of course fisherman are on that list. I would hope that included on that list are the following:

1. Whale Watch boats, who chase whales for the amusement of passengers which I assume is often confusing and antagonizing to whales
2. The national and international shipping and cruise ship industry. We know that there is actual evidentiary proof that they are the leading and potentially the only cause of death for right whales in Massachusetts state waters.
3. Offshore wind construction. As we know, whales are one of the most sensitive mammals in the ocean and erecting a structure in the ocean floor to travel through the water column emitting a constant low or

high frequency sound or vibration is of course something that can only be detrimental to whales since they have existed so long without these structures in their way and interrupting their sense of communication and direction. As a matter of fact, the argument could be made that if whales are becoming comfortable with a structure emitting a mechanical sound that does not physically harm them, perhaps that is why they would be slow to move out of the way of large vessels and ship strikes are occurring.

In any case, all of the groups listed above either share a common interest with these whale groups, or are far too large and powerful to be bothered by their decree and have greater financial backing than the litigators .

So, unfortunately, it has come down to monetary capability of fighting this closure. The groups seeking closures are very well funded and quite well organized. Commercial fisherman, largely independent and with no large funding source to fight the closure, are relying on the DMF to be a voice of reason in this. As a citizen of MA and the United States, I would think there needs to be irrefutable evidence available before the state closes a means of living for so many individuals in the state. Even if that evidence became available, we know that since the dawn of time, an immeasurable number of species have become extinct through one means or another and extinctions will continue long after we are gone. So in order for humans and animals to cohabitate on this earth, there needs to be a level of reproduction sustained or we will see exactly what is happening to the right whale. They encounter all of the same hazards that every other whale species encounters yet they are having a hard time sustaining. This is most likely due to reasons beyond the control of man. So why would we end a means for individuals in this state to make a living on a whim that the closures are helping a sea creature that is likely going to become extinct regardless.

Lastly, it is a huge shock to me that when we are considering the closure of an entire area for 3 months out of the year (more like 5 because a month on each end will be dedicated to setting and retrieving all gear) that the state is still issuing recreational licenses. If the situation is so dire to consider shutting down the fishery, I would think the very most elementary step to take in eliminating vertical lines would be to shut down all recreational fixed gear efforts. This would eliminate a huge number of end lines in the water.

I hope you can take the time to read this letter and consider some of the points made. I would appreciate any acknowledgment of reception of the letter so I at least know it reached the intended recipient. Thanks so much for your time and consideration.

**BOB DOBIAS** / *Manager*

CAPE CODDER BOAT CO.

C: 978.979.1795

E: [bob@capecodderboats.com](mailto:bob@capecodderboats.com)

[WEB](#) | [FACEBOOK](#) | [INSTAGRAM](#)

**From:** [jutmanb@comcast.net](mailto:jutmanb@comcast.net)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Closure of winter lobster season  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 10:07:03 AM

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Hi,

I am writing to you with objection to the call for seasonal closure of lobstering. While I have only been lobstering a couple of years, I am a charter captain and commercial tuna fisherman. Most rec lobstering is done in less than 50ft of water. During my short years, I have seen 1 right whale w/ calf, in 75ft or less, 1! With out incident. I hope DMF is not using republican impeachment strategy, I.E. No witnesses and no facts, I read a lot of posts about the heavy regulation commercial lobstermen have to go thru as a result of non evidence supported rule changes. We have to work with science and not just conservation. Why can't we tag whales with a radar deflection devices that will aid in preventing, the true killer of whales, cruise ships, from doing and more damage? Let's tax an industry out of existence to save whales while at the same time, allowing corporations to pollute the ocean w/ pcb's and other hard metal compounds?

Enough of the misdirected and misguided efforts by people who have no connection or experience, to the industry! Trash is killing all sea creatures, a sperm whale dissection's found plastic bags, even a 25ft section of garden hose in its' belly. Lobstermen are not threatening whales, cruise ships, ARE! Let us move beyond trump and the disinformation techniques used to manipulate the truth and stop hurting the fishermen that provide food! Enough is enough!

Thank you,  
Captain Justin A. Vyce  
0003359776  
12/15/20

**From:** [R.Wray](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Comments on New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 10:30:42 AM

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Citizens Opposing Active Sonar Threats (COAST)  
536 Point Road  
Hancock, Maine 04640

December 15, 2020

Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA 02114

Re: New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing

Dear Director McKiernan:

I am writing on behalf of COAST to provide comments on the New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing. Scientists are telling us that we need to seriously reduce human-caused injuries and mortalities of North Atlantic right whales if this species is to avoid extinction within the next few decades. This is what we must do, including a drastic reduction in the number of injuries and deaths resulting from entanglements in fishing gear. This must be accomplished rapidly—there is no time for further delays in extending meaningful protections for these whales if the population is to have a viable chance of recovering. COAST believes we owe it to the whales, who have every right to exist on this earth. But we also believe we owe it to ourselves. We will all benefit if our ocean ecosystems are healthy and thriving.

#### Proposed Fixed Gear Closures and Prohibitions

COAST believes the best and most effective way to protect North Atlantic right whales from entanglements in fishing gear, is to prevent those entanglements from occurring in the first place. These closures will help reduce entanglements, but will likely not eliminate them. Although there are times of the year when right whales are more likely to be found in waters off Massachusetts, right (and other) whales don't operate on human schedules, and do show up in those waters at other times, including some times when they are least expected. So if these whales are in these waters at times other than the proposed closures, they would still be subject to entanglements.

While the proposed measures include the option to extend the trap gear closure if right whales remain present, it is also possible that after leaving the area for some time, a whale, or whales, may return following the closure period. It goes without saying that if the gear is in the water and whales contact that gear, an entanglement may occur... no matter what time of the year it is. DMF should retain the authority, and exercise that authority, to re-close an amply-sized precautionary buffer zone around the area where right whale sightings have been confirmed.

While the proposed commercial trap closure includes all Commonwealth waters, the proposed closure on commercial gillnet does not. It is unclear why this is the case. If any gillnet fishing is being done outside of

the proposed closure area, the proposed measure will not ensure no right whales are entangled in gillnet gear. Therefore, the proposed closure on commercial gillnets should include all Commonwealth waters, and again, following the closure period, DMF should retain the authority to re-close an amply-sized buffer zone around the area where right whale sightings have been confirmed.

The proposed prohibition on commercial fishermen using vessels larger than 29' to fish single lobster traps may help reduce entanglements, but that prohibition should be extended to all commercial and recreational fishermen, as right whales do at times come into near-shore waters and may become entangled. At this time, every single living right whale is critical to the specie's survivability. People who are fishing recreationally are doing so for their pleasure and should not be needlessly threatening the future of right whales. Commercial fishermen should not be doing so either, and should also be prohibited from fishing single traps. There is no doubt that making this change will be difficult financially for some commercial fishermen. They must be offered some form of government assistance or compensation to help them make the changes necessary and so they need not face increased danger themselves.

### Proposed Gear modifications

The use of weaker rope, such as the 1,700 pound breaking strength buoy line being proposed that will allow an entangled whale a better chance of breaking free of at least part of the gear that is entangling it may help reduce some serious injuries and mortalities, but it is not a satisfactory solution to the problem of entanglements. Nor is the 3/8" and 5/16" proposed maximum buoy line diameters for commercial and recreational trap fishermen. These modifications do not guarantee whales will in fact be able to free themselves, nor will they necessarily prevent whales from being injured, having energy resources drained by carrying what gear remains, having their ability to reproduce diminished, or for that matter, dying as a result of that entanglement. Very clearly, right whale calves and juveniles may not have the strength or energy to break free. The same is true for sick or already entangled or otherwise injured whales.

This is not to say these measures should not be tried, but they are far from the best option to reduce injuries and mortalities of right and other whales. The best option is to prevent entanglements from happening in the first place.

### Ropeless Gear

Ropeless fishing would allow for fishing while effectively eliminating the cause of the great majority of entanglements...a win/win/win for fishermen, whales, and for the marine environment we all depend upon. It is already in use by fishermen in various parts of the world, and could and should be further developed so as to achieve even higher success rates. DMF should immediately begin permitting the use of ropeless gear, and it should be exempted from closures for fixed gear that requires rope. DMF (and NOAA Fisheries and others) should also encourage the rapid development and deployment of this technology with generous subsidies and other rewards to commercial fishermen as well as qualified businesses, engineers, scientists, and designers. This should be done without delay. As long as there are vertical lines in the water, whales are at risk of becoming entangled in them. Ropeless gear will get the rope out of the water, allowing the whales to live and the fishermen to fish.

### Gear marking

Until the time when all fishing is done without the use of vertical ropes or other gear that can entangle whales (and other marine life), it is essential that all fishing gear, without exception, be thoroughly, and comprehensively marked so as to clearly indicate the specific fishery, and specific area fished. The ambiguity that has resulted from a lack of sufficient marking on fishing gear has been inappropriately used

by some fisheries to claim they are not responsible for causing entanglements. A lack of evidence does not prove innocence. A requirement for the marking of all gear will shed much needed light on the matter and do away with this ambiguity. It will also allow for a more focused adjustment of gear and practices to further reduce entanglements.

Although the proposed maximum buoy line diameters may help differentiate trap gear from Massachusetts from heavier gear fished offshore and in Canada, this in itself is not enough. All parts of the gear should be clearly marked, and be marked minimally every 30' on rope, so that should a whale become entangled, the gear that entangled it, the location of where that gear was set, and the fishery that gear came from, can readily be identified. This should be done so that even in cases where the gear cannot be recovered, it can still be identified through sightings and photos.

### Other Threats to Right Whales

Entanglements are not the only threat to the continued existence of right whales. Ship strikes are also a very serious threat. Current protections against shipstrikes are obviously inadequate and should be extended to include mandatory (and strictly enforced) speed limits on motorized vessels, including smaller vessels over 25 or 30 feet, which can also injure and kill if they were to strike a whale. DMF should be aware of other threats to right whales, and where feasible, take meaningful action to address those threats. This could be done, for example, by DMF having input on, and limiting or prohibiting, where possible, Navy activities such as the deployment of its sonar or the use of explosives in Massachusetts waters where the resulting sound energy would very likely negatively impact any right whales unlucky enough to be exposed to it.

### Funding to implement protective measures

The measures that can, and must be used to effectively reduce injuries and mortalities of right whales resulting from entanglements will cost money to implement. It will be a significant amount, but minuscule when compared to, for example, the \$2 billion a day this country spends on the Pentagon budget (Costs of War Project, Boston University). COAST believes it is unfair to expect fishermen in small-scale operations to be made to bear all of those costs. NOAA Fisheries and other federal agencies as well as state government should put their money where their mouths are and financially assist fishermen in making the changes that are necessary through subsidies and other means. Doing this would reduce the hardship and dangers fishermen would otherwise face, and likely increase levels of willingness and cooperation in efforts to increase protections that allow for the recovery of the right whale.

### Conclusion

If right whales are to avoid extinction, then every effort must be made to immediately protect the ones that remain. We cannot rely on half-measures that will fail to offer right whales enough protections from entanglements and other threats to their continued existence. To allow for the extinction of this remarkable species would be a great crime...and absolutely unacceptable. Now is the time for the creative implementation of effective measures that will protect these whales and allow for their recovery—not just on paper, but in the real world. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed regulations.

Sincerely,

Russell Wray  
Citizens Opposing Active Sonar Threats (COAST)

Russell Wray  
Citizens Opposing Active Sonar Threats  
536 Point Road  
Hancock, Maine 04640  
phone: 207-266-3105  
[7coast@roadrunner.com](mailto:7coast@roadrunner.com)

**From:** [Johanna Finnegan-Topitzer](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 9:18:25 AM

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

null

Dear Director McKiernan,

As a resident of Massachusetts, where the ocean forms an integral part of our state identity, keeping our beaches, coasts, and marine species and habitats healthy matters deeply to me. North Atlantic right whales, which swim in Massachusetts' waters, are one of our most at-risk species.

First, I'd like to thank you and the Division of Marine Fisheries for drafting a strong proposed rule. In particular, I was glad to see the inclusion of more seasonal closures to fishing during the time of year that right whales are likely to be in the area. This is the type of bold action we'll need to save these whales.

I write today to urge you to include language that implements a pathway for the development and implementation of ropeless fishing gear. We know that the best way to prevent entanglements is to remove rope from the water, and the development and adoption of ropeless gear will provide a long term solution to this problem.

Sincerely,  
Johanna Finnegan-Topitzer  
9 Carney St  
Apt 2  
Medford, MA 02155

**From:** [Linda Thomas](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 9:16:00 AM

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Linda Thomas  
57 Juggler Meadow Rd  
Leverett, MA 01054

**From:** [Sally Thompson](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 9:00:19 AM

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

null

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Sincerely,  
Sally Thompson  
14 Freedom Farme Rd  
Acton, MA 01720

**From:** [Barbradk Eaton](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 7:54:04 AM

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

null

Dear Director McKiernan,

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Sincerely,  
Barbradk Eaton  
PO Box 615  
Easthampton, MA 01027

**From:** [Leah Cameron](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 7:43:09 AM

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

null

Dear Director McKiernan,

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Sincerely,  
Leah Cameron  
637 Benson Road  
Whitinsville, MA 01588

**From:** [Jacob Pendlebury](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 7:33:53 AM

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

null

Dear Director McKiernan,

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Sincerely,  
Jacob Pendlebury  
26 Lincoln Ave  
Marblehead, MA 01945

**From:** [Catherine Farrell](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 7:32:49 AM

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

null

Dear Director McKiernan,

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Sincerely,  
Catherine Farrell  
76 Park St  
Arlington, MA 02474

**From:** [Susan Piaggio-O'Keefe](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 7:14:55 AM

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

null

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Sincerely,  
Susan Piaggio-O'Keefe  
173 Ocean Ave West  
Salem, MA 01970

**From:** [James OKeefe](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 6:47:20 AM

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

null

Dear Director McKiernan,

As a resident of Massachusetts, where the ocean forms an integral part of our state identity, keeping our beaches, coasts, and marine species and habitats healthy matters deeply to me. North Atlantic right whales, which swim in Massachusetts' waters, are one of our most at-risk species.

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Sincerely,  
James OKeefe  
173 Ocean Ave W  
Salem, MA 01970

**From:** [Gloria Kegeles](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 6:31:50 AM

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

null

Dear Director McKiernan,

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Sincerely,  
Gloria Kegeles  
PO Box 254  
PO Box  
Wendell, MA 01379

**From:** [Don Ogden](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 5:51:42 AM

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

null

Director McKiernan,

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Sincerely,  
Don Ogden  
The Envirop Show  
140 Pine Street  
Florence, MA 01062

**From:** [Michelle Stoney](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 5:47:21 AM

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Michelle Stoney  
29 River St  
Hudson, MA 01749

**From:** [Gordon Anderson](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 12:32:30 AM

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Gordon Anderson  
390 Summer Ave  
Reading, MA 01867

**From:** [Ann Braman](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 12:22:48 AM

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Ann Braman  
25 Kinsley Rd  
Acton, MA 01720

**From:** [Mary Hubbard](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 12:12:23 AM

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Mary Hubbard  
62 Deer Run Ln  
North Falmouth, Ma 02556  
North Falmouth, MA 02556

**From:** [Ronald vander Bosch](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 12:03:22 AM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

null

Dear Director McKiernan,

As a resident of Massachusetts, where the ocean forms an integral part of our state identity, keeping our beaches, coasts, and marine species and habitats healthy matters deeply to me. North Atlantic right whales, which swim in Massachusetts' waters, are one of our most at-risk species.

First, I'd like to thank you and the Division of Marine Fisheries for drafting a strong proposed rule. In particular, I was glad to see the inclusion of more seasonal closures to fishing during the time of year that right whales are likely to be in the area. This is the type of bold action we'll need to save these whales.

I write today to urge you to include language that implements a pathway for the development and implementation of ropeless fishing gear. We know that the best way to prevent entanglements is to remove rope from the water, and the development and adoption of ropeless gear will provide a long term solution to this problem.

Sincerely,  
Ronald vander Bosch  
41 Norwood St  
Greenfield, MA 01301

**From:** [Chris Mccully](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:39:53 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

null

Dear Director McKiernan,

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Sincerely,  
Chris Mccully  
145 South St  
Northampton, MA 01060

**From:** [Ann Rosenkranz](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:13:06 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

null

Dear Director McKiernan,

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Sincerely,  
Ann Rosenkranz  
102 Skiffs Ln  
Vineyard Haven, MA 02568

**From:** [Nancy Swartwout](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 10:22:02 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

null

Dear Director McKiernan,

As a resident of Massachusetts, where the ocean forms an integral part of our state identity, keeping our beaches, coasts, and marine species and habitats healthy matters deeply to me. North Atlantic right whales, which swim in Massachusetts' waters, are one of our most at-risk species.

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Sincerely,  
Nancy Swartwout  
350 Granby Rd  
South Hadley, MA 01075

**From:** [Louise Amyot](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 10:17:17 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

null

Dear Director McKiernan,

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Sincerely,  
Louise Amyot  
56 Madison Cir Apt 1  
Greenfield, MA 01301

**From:** [Amy Berenson](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 9:51:01 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Amy Berenson  
47 Cloutmans Ln  
Marblehead, MA 01945

**From:** [Maureen Commane](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 9:42:11 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Maureen Commane  
25 Fairfield St.  
Needham, MA 02492

**From:** [Priscilla Chambers](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 9:39:32 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Dear Director McKiernan,

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Sincerely,  
Priscilla Chambers  
429 Sewall St  
Boylston, MA 01505

**From:** [Virginia Jastromb](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 9:37:14 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Virginia Jastromb  
73 Barrett St  
Apt 1040  
Northampton, MA 01060

**From:** [Dennis Diemand](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 9:33:30 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Dennis Diemand  
PO Box 43  
Cataumet, MA 02534

**From:** [Betsy Sowers](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 9:31:17 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Dear Director McKiernan,

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Sincerely,  
Betsy Sowers  
48 Sandtrap Cir  
South Weymouth, MA 02190

**From:** [Susan Holland](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 9:14:21 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Dear Director McKiernan,

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Sincerely,  
Susan Holland  
35 Todd Pond Rd  
Lincoln, MA 01773

**From:** [Alan J Nishman](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 8:41:40 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Alan J Nishman  
23 O'Neill Rd  
Haydenville, MA 01039

**From:** [Blithe Hogan](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 8:28:50 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Blithe Hogan  
29 Drummer Rd  
Acton, MA 01720

**From:** [Robert Chmielinski](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 8:20:30 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Robert Chmielinski  
2001 Marina Dr Apt 401 Unit 401  
Unit 401  
Quincy, MA 02171

**From:** [Maureen Price](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 7:56:15 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Maureen Price  
363 Walden St  
Unit G  
Cambridge, MA 02138

**From:** [Todd Atkins](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 7:55:15 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Todd Atkins  
71 messenger st  
912  
Plainville, MA 02762

**From:** [Mary Lou Crimmins](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 7:26:45 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Mary Lou Crimmins  
50 Winchester St  
Unit 201  
Brookline, MA 02446

**From:** [Jean Glassman](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 7:19:48 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Jean Glassman  
89 Newport St  
Arlington, MA 02476

**From:** [John Pelletier](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 7:14:29 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
John Pelletier  
92 Central Ave  
N/A  
Newton, MA 02460

**From:** [Richard Legault](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 7:12:46 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Richard Legault  
2620 Williams St  
Dighton, MA 02715

**From:** [Brad McDonough](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 7:08:52 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Brad McDonough  
18 Newbury St.  
Woburn, MA 01801

**From:** [Daphne Stevens](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 7:04:52 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

null

Dear Director McKiernan,

As a 40 year climate activist and a resident of Massachusetts, where the ocean forms an integral part of our state identity, keeping our beaches, coasts, and marine species and habitats healthy matters deeply to me. North Atlantic right whales, which swim in Massachusetts' waters, are one of our most at-risk species.

First, I'd like to thank you and the Division of Marine Fisheries for drafting a strong proposed rule. In particular, I was glad to see the inclusion of more seasonal closures to fishing during the time of year that right whales are likely to be in the area. This is the type of bold action we'll need to save these whales.

I write today to urge you to include language that implements a pathway for the development and implementation of ropeless fishing gear. We know that the best way to prevent entanglements is to remove rope from the water, and the development and adoption of ropeless gear will provide a long term solution to this problem.

Sincerely,  
Daphne Stevens  
56 Firethorn Ln  
Northampton, MA 01060

**From:** [Karen Ziomek Vayda](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 6:56:34 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

null

Dear Director McKiernan,

As a resident of Massachusetts, where the ocean forms an integral part of our state identity, keeping our beaches, coasts, and marine species and habitats healthy matters deeply to me. North Atlantic right whales, which swim in Massachusetts' waters, are one of our most at-risk species.

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Sincerely,  
Karen Ziomek Vayda  
4 Donna Marie Way  
Southampton, MA 01073

**From:** [Anna Wilcox](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 6:55:58 PM

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Dear Director McKiernan,

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Sincerely,  
Anna Wilcox  
380 Columbus Ave.  
Boston, MA 02116

**From:** [Alan Berg](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 6:49:11 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Dear Director McKiernan,

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Sincerely,  
Alan Berg  
26 Anne Way  
Brewster, MA 02631

**From:** [Christa Pylant](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 6:37:01 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Christa Pylant  
33 Smith St  
Greenfield, MA 01301

**From:** [Andrew Costigan](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 6:29:19 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Andrew Costigan  
49 Lovering St  
Medway, MA 02053

**From:** [Odilo Mueller](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 6:19:40 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Odilo Mueller  
363 N Emerson Rd  
Lexington, MA 02420

**From:** [Kenneth Reeves](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 6:05:08 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Dear Director McKiernan,

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Sincerely,  
Kenneth Reeves  
69 Border Rd  
Concord, MA 01742

**From:** [Amy Schneider](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 6:01:00 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Amy Schneider  
48 Oxford Rd  
Newton Center, MA 02459

**From:** [Deidre Nassar](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 5:57:15 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Dear Director McKiernan,

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Sincerely,  
Deidre Nassar  
30 Mill St  
Williamstown, MA 01267

**From:** [Jack Foresteire](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 5:46:13 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Jack Foresteire  
9 Illinois Rd  
Tewksbury, MA 01876

**From:** [Marjorie Smith](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 5:39:27 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Dear Director McKiernan,

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Sincerely,  
Marjorie Smith  
25 Stonehedge Rd  
Lincoln, MA 01773

**From:** [Cheryl Dwyer](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 5:38:52 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Dear Director McKiernan,

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Sincerely,  
Cheryl Dwyer  
86 Magnolia Rd  
Swampscott, MA 01907

**From:** [Brian McPherson](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 5:36:56 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Dear Director McKiernan,

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Sincerely,  
Brian McPherson  
23 Oak Knoll Road  
Natick, MA 01760

**From:** [Sebastien Bahloul](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 5:26:01 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Dear Director McKiernan,

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Sincerely,  
Sebastien Bahloul  
8 Barney Hill Rd  
Wayland, MA 01778

**From:** [Bonnie Gorman](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 5:25:18 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Bonnie Gorman  
222 Rock Island Rd  
Quincy, MA 02169

**From:** [Frank Kreimendahl](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 5:14:47 PM

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Frank Kreimendahl  
14 Larchmont Ave  
Waban, MA 02468

**From:** [Charlotte Harrington](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 4:55:40 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Charlotte Harrington  
120 Hanian Dr  
Weymouth, MA 02189

**From:** [Elizabeth Newton](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 4:49:31 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Elizabeth Newton  
23 Sycamore Rd  
Wayland, MA 01778

**From:** [Tracy Brown](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 4:39:21 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Tracy Brown  
14 Saint Rose St  
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

**From:** [Richard Grove](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 4:33:02 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Richard Grove  
749 Head Of The Bay Rd Apt 314 # 7D  
Apt 314  
Buzzards Bay, MA 02532

**From:** [Richard Riedel](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 4:31:38 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Richard Riedel  
423 New Lenox Rd  
Lenox, MA 01240

**From:** [Deborah Goodman](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 4:26:27 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

null

Dear Director McKiernan,

As a resident of Massachusetts, where the ocean forms an integral part of our state identity, keeping our beaches, coasts, and marine species and habitats healthy matters deeply to me. North Atlantic right whales, which swim in Massachusetts' waters, are one of our most at-risk species.

First, I'd like to thank you and the Division of Marine Fisheries for drafting a strong proposed rule. In particular, I was glad to see the inclusion of more seasonal closures to fishing during the time of year that right whales are likely to be in the area. This is the type of bold action we'll need to save these whales.

I write today to urge you to include language that implements a pathway for the development and implementation of ropeless fishing gear. We know that the best way to prevent entanglements is to remove rope from the water, and the development and adoption of ropeless gear will provide a long term solution to this problem.

Sincerely,  
Deborah Goodman  
65 Atherton Rd Apt 1 1  
1  
Brookline, MA 02446

**From:** [Jan Ragusa](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 4:21:10 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

null

Dear Director McKiernan,

As a resident of Massachusetts, where the ocean forms an integral part of our state identity, keeping our beaches, coasts, and marine species and habitats healthy matters deeply to me. North Atlantic right whales, which swim in Massachusetts' waters, are one of our most at-risk species.

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Sincerely,  
Jan Ragusa  
67 Ryan Road Apt 2  
Apt 2  
Florence, MA 01062

**From:** [Beth Gehman](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 4:19:01 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

null

Dear Director McKiernan,

As a resident of Massachusetts, where the ocean forms an integral part of our state identity, keeping our beaches, coasts, and marine species and habitats healthy matters deeply to me. North Atlantic right whales, which swim in Massachusetts' waters, are one of our most at-risk species.

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Sincerely,  
Beth Gehman  
141 Marked Tree Rd  
Needham, MA 02492

**From:** [Daniel Dolce](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 4:14:13 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Dear Director McKiernan,

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Sincerely,  
Daniel Dolce  
124 Castle Rd  
Nahant, MA 01908

**From:** [Laura Durant](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 4:11:45 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Dear Director McKiernan,

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Sincerely,  
Laura Durant  
6 Rockmere St  
Dorchester, MA 02125

**From:** [Larry McCavitt](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 4:05:57 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Dear Director McKiernan,

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Sincerely,  
Larry McCavitt  
272 Falmouth Woods Rd  
East Falmouth, MA 02536

**From:** [Cynthia Dickinson](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 4:05:37 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Dear Director McKiernan,

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Sincerely,  
Cynthia Dickinson  
12 Paige Hill Rd  
Brimfield, MA 01010

**From:** [Allen Altman](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 4:05:20 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Allen Altman  
PO Box 441  
Great Barrington, MA 01230

**From:** [Ann Marie Lahaie](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 3:53:35 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Ann Marie Lahaie  
30 Kernwood Drive  
Lynn  
Lynn, MA 01904

**From:** [Richard Sirull](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 3:52:01 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Richard Sirull  
81 Jerrold St  
Holliston, MA 01746

**From:** [Richard Sirull](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 3:52:01 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Richard Sirull  
81 Jerrold St  
Holliston, MA 01746

**From:** [Carol Esler](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 3:50:58 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Dear Director McKiernan,

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Sincerely,  
Carol Esler  
16 Oakhurst Rd  
Hopkinton, MA 01748

**From:** [Jennifer Sawyer](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 3:49:06 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Dear Director McKiernan,

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Sincerely,  
Jennifer Sawyer  
33 Cavanaugh Rd  
Wellesley Hills, MA 02481

**From:** [Rui Ponte](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 3:45:10 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Dear Director McKiernan,

As a resident of Massachusetts, where the ocean forms an integral part of our state identity, keeping our beaches, coasts, and marine species and habitats healthy matters deeply to me. North Atlantic right whales, which swim in Massachusetts' waters, are one of our most at-risk species.

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Sincerely,  
Rui Ponte  
43 Holworthy St  
Cambridge, MA 02138

**From:** [Marie Haggerty](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 3:41:34 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Dear Director McKiernan,

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I actually saw a right whale and hope that we can protect them so that they can be seen and NOT hurt by humans.

Thank you,  
Marie

Sincerely,  
Marie Haggerty  
173 Westford Rd  
Tyngsboro, MA 01879

**From:** [Christine E Linderman](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 3:32:28 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Dear Director McKiernan,

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First, I'd like to thank you and the Division of Marine Fisheries for drafting a strong proposed rule. In particular, I was glad to see the inclusion of more seasonal closures to fishing during the time of year that right whales are likely to be in the area. This is the type of bold action we'll need to save these whales.

I write today to urge you to include language that implements a pathway for the development and implementation of ropeless fishing gear. This will go far in ultimately providing a long term solution to this problem.

Again, thank you for your actions thus far, and please consider the addition of a pathway to eventual adoption of ropeless fishing gear.

Sincerely,  
Christine E Linderman  
277 Riverside Dr  
Florence, MA 01062

**From:** [Wendy Fossa](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 3:30:28 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Wendy Fossa  
78 Belcher St  
Essex, MA 01929

**From:** [Joel Maguire](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 3:13:45 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

null

Dear Director McKiernan,

As a resident of Cape Cod who has spent the majority of his life in, on, and under the water, keeping our beaches, coasts, and marine species and habitats healthy, matters deeply to me. North Atlantic right whales, which swim in Massachusetts' waters, are one of our most at-risk species.

First, I'd like to thank you and the Division of Marine Fisheries for drafting a strong proposed rule. In particular, I was glad to see the inclusion of more seasonal closures to fishing during the time of year that right whales are likely to be in the area. This is the type of bold action we'll need to save these whales.

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Sincerely,  
Joel Maguire  
144 Meadow Ln  
West Barnstable, MA 02668

**From:** [Nilah M. MacDonald](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 3:08:33 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Dear Director McKiernan,

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Sincerely,  
Nilah M. MacDonald  
25 Whortleberry Ln  
Scituate, MA 02066

**From:** [Michael Stuart](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 3:01:23 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Michael Stuart  
11 Arlington Street  
Apt #  
Auburn, MA 01501

**From:** [Shelley Hartz](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 2:47:24 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Shelley Hartz  
7 Baron Way  
Littleton, MA 01460

**From:** [Kathryn Cuffe](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 2:40:20 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Dear Director McKiernan,

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Sincerely,  
Kathryn Cuffe  
8 Lafayette  
Newburyport, MA 01950

**From:** [Kathryn Leach](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 2:36:19 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Dear Director McKiernan,

As a resident of Massachusetts, where the ocean forms an integral part of our state identity, keeping our beaches, coasts, and marine species and habitats healthy matters deeply to me. North Atlantic right whales, which swim in Massachusetts' waters, are one of our most at-risk species.

First, I'd like to thank you and the Division of Marine Fisheries for drafting a strong proposed rule. In particular, I was glad to see the inclusion of more seasonal closures to fishing during the time of year that right whales are likely to be in the area. This is the type of bold action we'll need to save these whales.

I write today to urge you to include language that implements a pathway for the development and implementation of ropeless fishing gear. We know that the best way to prevent entanglements is to remove rope from the water, and the development and adoption of ropeless gear will provide a long term solution to this problem.

Sincerely,  
Kathryn Leach  
38 Gorham St  
Arlington, MA 02474

**From:** [Maggie Kilduff](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 2:25:33 PM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

null

Dear Director McKiernan,

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Sincerely,  
Maggie Kilduff  
631 Cambridge St  
Brighton, MA 02135

**From:** [Sonja Baris](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 2:22:05 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Sonja Baris  
86 Grove St  
Clinton, MA 01510

**From:** [Amy Sophia Marashinsky](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 2:13:38 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Amy Sophia Marashinsky  
89 Pine Grove  
Amherst, MA 01002

**From:** [Donna Austin](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 2:12:41 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Donna Austin  
12 Queen Anne Ln  
Hingham, MA 02043

**From:** [Walt Gowly](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 2:10:46 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Walt Gowly  
154 Ball Hill Rd  
Princeton, MA 01541

**From:** [Peter Fox](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 2:07:34 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Peter Fox  
865 Central Ave Apt B503  
Unit B503  
Needham, MA 02492

**From:** [Jeremiah Mew](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 2:05:47 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Jeremiah Mew  
197 Henry St  
Amherst, MA 01002

**From:** [Tim Breeze-Thorndike](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 2:03:52 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Dear Director McKiernan,

As a resident of Massachusetts, where the ocean forms an integral part of our state identity, keeping our beaches, coasts, and marine species and habitats healthy matters deeply to me. North Atlantic right whales, which swim in Massachusetts' waters, are one of our most at-risk species. I've been lucky enough to see these amazing animals swimming in our waters and want to make sure that continues.

First, I'd like to thank you and the Division of Marine Fisheries for drafting a strong proposed rule. In particular, I was glad to see the inclusion of more seasonal closures to fishing during the time of year that right whales are likely to be in the area. This is the type of bold action we'll need to save these whales.

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Sincerely,  
Tim Breeze-Thorndike  
191 Eliot St  
Apt 3  
Milton, MA 02186

**From:** [Susan Lemont](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 2:01:21 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Dear Director McKiernan,

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Sincerely,  
Susan Lemont  
90 Robbins Rd  
Arlington, MA 02476

**From:** [Dorthee W](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 2:00:33 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Dear Director McKiernan,

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Sincerely,  
Dorthee W  
141 Montague Rd  
Wendell, MA 01379

**From:** [Brock Cordeiro](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 1:59:58 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Brock Cordeiro  
15 Sagamore Dr  
Dartmouth, MA 02748

**From:** [Melanie Wallace](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 1:51:53 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Melanie Wallace  
135 Kirkstall Rd  
Newtonville, MA 02460

**From:** [Judy Stetson](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 1:50:06 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Judy Stetson  
261 Quissett Ave.  
Woods Hole, MA 02543

**From:** [Scout Perry](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 1:46:35 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Scout Perry  
86 Corey Road  
3  
Boston, MA 02135

**From:** [Richard Hassinger](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 1:35:26 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Richard Hassinger  
10 Church St  
Newton, MA 02458

**From:** [Emily Wensberg](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 1:31:47 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Emily Wensberg  
112 Hancock St Apt 1  
Somerville, MA 02144

**From:** [Jane Sutton](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 1:30:04 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Jane Sutton  
11 Mason St  
Lexington, MA 02421

**From:** [Mary Weissenberger](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 1:27:40 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Mary Weissenberger  
53 Summit Ave  
Salem, MA 01970

**From:** [Melinda Hall](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 1:27:01 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Melinda Hall  
12 Oyster Pond Rd  
Falmouth, MA 02540

**From:** [Leda Zimmerman](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 1:26:15 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Leda Zimmerman  
7 Linmoor Ter  
Lexington, MA 02420

**From:** [Donald Williams](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 1:24:24 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Donald Williams  
81 College Ave  
Somerville, MA 02144

**From:** [Loraine Ferrara](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 1:23:48 PM

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Dear Director McKiernan,

As a resident of Massachusetts, where the ocean forms an integral part of our state identity, keeping our beaches, coasts, and marine species and habitats healthy matters deeply to me. North Atlantic right whales, which swim in Massachusetts' waters, are one of our most at-risk species.

First, I'd like to thank you and the Division of Marine Fisheries for drafting a strong proposed rule. In particular, I was glad to see the inclusion of more seasonal closures to fishing during the time of year that right whales are likely to be in the area. This is the type of bold action we'll need to save these whales.

I write today to urge you to include language that implements a pathway for the development and implementation of ropeless fishing gear. We know that the best way to prevent entanglements is to remove rope from the water, and the development and adoption of ropeless gear will provide a long term solution to this problem.

Sincerely,  
Loraine Ferrara  
76 Newton Ave  
Braintree, MA 02184

**From:** [Charles Gordon](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 1:20:02 PM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

null

Dear Director McKiernan,

As a resident of Massachusetts, where the ocean forms an integral part of our state identity, keeping our beaches, coasts, and marine species and habitats healthy matters deeply to me. North Atlantic right whales, which swim in Massachusetts' waters, are one of our most at-risk species.

First, I'd like to thank you and the Division of Marine Fisheries for drafting a strong proposed rule. In particular, I was glad to see the inclusion of more seasonal closures to fishing during the time of year that right whales are likely to be in the area. This is the type of bold action we'll need to save these whales.

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Sincerely,  
Charles Gordon  
5209 Great Meadow Rd  
Dedham, MA 02026

**From:** [Louis Irwin](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 1:17:46 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

null

Dear Director McKiernan,

As a resident of Massachusetts, where the ocean forms an integral part of our state identity, keeping our beaches, coasts, and marine species and habitats healthy matters deeply to me. North Atlantic right whales, which swim in Massachusetts' waters, are one of our most at-risk species.

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Sincerely,  
Louis Irwin  
6 Turtleback Rd  
Essex, MA 01929

**From:** [Tallessyn Grenfell-Lee](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 1:15:53 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

null

Dear Director McKiernan,

As a devout United Methodist, I am heartbroken at the needless suffering of our beautiful fellow creatures. I believe that it is possible to co-exist and work in ways that do not lead to needless suffering, decline, and extinction, but instead lead to abundance and resilience. We need creatures like whales in order to have the healthy ecosystems on which our very lives depend.

I grew up near the ocean in New England, and I have been amazingly blessed to have taken 2 whale watching trips in my life in which I saw these amazing creatures. I am particularly concerned about North Atlantic right whales, an incredible but at-risk species.

I am heartened by your work with the Division of Marine Fisheries in drafting proposed regulations that can help these amazing creatures, and therefore, all of us, survive and thrive.

I write today because it is my understanding that ropeless fishing gear would also go a long way toward preventing the needless suffering and decline of these and other sea creatures. I hope you and the others involved can creatively find ways to develop and implement strategies for ropeless gear, and I also hope you find a way to put this agenda into the proposal.

Best wishes for a healing and hopeful Advent.

Sincerely,  
Tallessyn Grenfell-Lee  
26 Juniper Rd  
Marlborough, MA 01752

**From:** [Dean Langmuir](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 1:10:42 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

null

Dear Director McKiernan,

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I write today to urge you to include language that implements a pathway for the development and implementation of ropeless fishing gear. We know that the best way to prevent entanglements is to remove rope from the water, and the development and adoption of ropeless gear will provide a long term solution to this problem.

Sincerely,  
Dean Langmuir  
80 Deaconess Rd  
Unit 131  
Concord, MA 01742

**From:** [Eileen Lawlor](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 1:07:31 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

null

Dear Director McKiernan,

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Sincerely,  
Eileen Lawlor  
PO Box 633  
Monterey, MA 01245

**From:** [Sara Johnston](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:59:59 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Sara Johnston  
PO Box 28  
Po Box 28  
Rochester, MA 02770

**From:** [Mary Glynn](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:54:54 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

null

Dear Director McKiernan,

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Sincerely,  
Mary Glynn  
29 Leach Ln  
Natick, MA 01760

**From:** [Liz Field](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:50:11 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

null

Dear Director McKiernan,

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Sincerely,  
Liz Field  
16 Windingwood Ln  
Acton, MA 01720

**From:** [Linda Agerbak](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:48:50 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

null

Dear Director McKiernan,

As a resident of Massachusetts, where the ocean forms an integral part of our state identity, keeping our beaches, coasts, and marine species and habitats healthy matters to me. North Atlantic right whales, which swim in Massachusetts' waters, are one of our most at-risk species.

I'd like to thank you and the Division of Marine Fisheries for drafting a strong proposed rule. In particular, I was glad to see the inclusion of more seasonal closures to fishing during the time of year that right whales are likely to be in the area. This is the type of bold action we'll need to save these whales.

I urge you to include language that implements a pathway for the development and implementation of ropeless fishing gear. We know that the best way to prevent entanglements is to remove rope from the water, and the development and adoption of ropeless gear will provide a long term solution to this problem.

Sincerely,  
Linda Agerbak  
42 Thorndike St  
Arlington, MA 02474

**From:** [Jean Williams](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:47:27 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

null

Dear Director McKiernan,

As a resident of Massachusetts, where the ocean forms an integral part of our state identity, keeping our beaches, coasts, and marine species and habitats healthy matters deeply to me. North Atlantic right whales, which swim in Massachusetts' waters, are one of our most at-risk species.

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I write today to urge you to include language that implements a pathway for the development and implementation of ropeless fishing gear. We know that the best way to prevent entanglements is to remove rope from the water, and the development and adoption of ropeless gear will provide a long term solution to this problem.

Sincerely,  
Jean Williams  
251 Buckminster Dr  
251 Buckminster Drive  
Norwood, MA 02062

**From:** [Jennifer Thornton](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:41:19 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

null

Dear Director McKiernan,

As a resident of Massachusetts, where the ocean forms an integral part of our state identity, keeping our beaches, coasts, and marine species and habitats healthy matters deeply to me. North Atlantic right whales, which swim in Massachusetts' waters, are one of our most at-risk species.

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Sincerely,  
Jennifer Thornton  
331 Long Plain Rd  
Leverett, MA 01054

**From:** [Kate Hermann](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:40:22 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

null

Dear Director McKiernan,

As a resident of Massachusetts, where the ocean forms an integral part of our state identity, keeping our beaches, coasts, and marine species and habitats healthy matters deeply to me. North Atlantic right whales, which swim in Massachusetts' waters, are one of our most at-risk species.

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Sincerely,  
Kate Hermann  
1306 Trapelo Rd.  
Waltham, MA 02451

**From:** [Norman Douglas](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:39:04 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

null

Dear Director McKiernan,

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Sincerely,  
Norman Douglas  
6 Lake Ave  
Gt Barrington, MA 01230

**From:** [James Denis](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:38:39 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Dear Director McKiernan,

As a resident of Massachusetts, where the ocean forms an integral part of our state identity, keeping our beaches, coasts, and marine species and habitats healthy matters deeply to me. North Atlantic right whales, which swim in Massachusetts' waters, are one of our most at-risk species.

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Sincerely,  
James Denis  
23 Boardman St  
Salem, MA 01970

**From:** [Andrea Cohen](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:37:26 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Dear Director McKiernan,

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I write today to urge you to include language that implements a pathway for the development and implementation of ropeless fishing gear. We know that the best way to prevent entanglements is to remove rope from the water, and the development and adoption of ropeless gear will provide a long term solution to this problem. Please protect these animals!

Sincerely,  
Andrea Cohen  
22 Freedom Farme Rd  
Acton, MA 01720

**From:** [Heather Fox](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:36:27 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

null

Dear Director McKiernan,

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Sincerely,  
Heather Fox  
9 Lorin Dr  
Wilmington, MA 01887

**From:** [James Hadcroft](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:36:10 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

null

Dear Director McKiernan,

James K Hadcroft here.

As a resident of Massachusetts, where the ocean forms an integral part of our state identity, keeping our beaches, coasts, and marine species and habitats healthy matters deeply to me. North Atlantic right whales, which swim in Massachusetts' waters, are one of our most at-risk species.

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Sincerely,  
James Hadcroft  
356 Gifford St  
Falmouth, MA 02540

**From:** [Carole McAuliffe](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:35:19 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

null

Dear Director McKiernan,

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Sincerely,  
Carole McAuliffe  
40 Way 35 Off Briar  
Wellfleet, MA 02667

**From:** [Grace Diemand](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:33:32 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

null

Dear Director McKiernan,

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Sincerely,  
Grace Diemand  
PO Box 43  
Cataumet, MA 02534

**From:** [Grace Diemand](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:33:31 PM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

null

Dear Director McKiernan,

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Sincerely,  
Grace Diemand  
PO Box 43  
Cataumet, MA 02534

**From:** [Peter Roberts](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:33:18 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

null

Dear Director McKiernan,

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Sincerely,  
Peter Roberts  
15 Prospect Ave  
Scituate, MA 02066

**From:** [Dennis Diemand](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:32:40 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

null

Dear Director McKiernan,

As a resident of Massachusetts, where the ocean forms an integral part of our state identity, keeping our beaches, coasts, and marine species and habitats healthy matters deeply to me. North Atlantic right whales, which swim in Massachusetts' waters, are one of our most at-risk species.

First, I'd like to thank you and the Division of Marine Fisheries for drafting a strong proposed rule. In particular, I was glad to see the inclusion of more seasonal closures to fishing during the time of year that right whales are likely to be in the area. This is the type of bold action we'll need to save these whales.

I write today to urge you to include language that implements a pathway for the development and implementation of ropeless fishing gear. We know that the best way to prevent entanglements is to remove rope from the water, and the development and adoption of ropeless gear will provide a long term solution to this problem.

Sincerely,  
Dennis Diemand  
PO Box 43  
Cataumet, MA 02534

**From:** [Joy Johnson](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:29:53 PM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

null

Dear Director McKiernan,

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Sincerely,  
Joy Johnson  
398 Millstone Rd  
Brewster, MA 02631

**From:** [David Kechley](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:29:13 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
David Kechley  
400 Pine Cobble Rd  
Williamstown  
Williamstown, MA 01267

**From:** [Robert H. Welch](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:28:27 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Robert H. Welch  
5 Summit Pl  
Newburyport, MA 01950

**From:** [Thomas Bahr](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:28:15 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Thomas Bahr  
19 Cliffview Ter  
Lunenburg, MA 01462

**From:** [Jon Lees](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:21:47 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Jon Lees  
125 Chesterfield Rd  
Westhampton, MA 01027

**From:** [Brooke Dyer Bennet](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:17:14 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Brooke Dyer Bennet  
62 Claybrook Rd  
Sunderland, MA 01375

**From:** [Kathleen Lewis](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:16:03 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Kathleen Lewis  
250 Furnace Brook Pkwy Unit 3  
Unit 3  
Quincy, MA 02169

**From:** [Ron Riggert](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:15:57 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Ron Riggert  
133 Moore Rd  
Sudbury, MA 01776

**From:** [John Cox](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:14:10 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

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Sincerely,  
John Cox  
10 Leland Rd  
Natick, MA 01760

**From:** [Carole Smudin](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:13:54 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Carole Smudin  
PO Box123  
Po Box 123  
Bridgewater, MA 02324

**From:** [Jason Menard](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:13:38 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Jason Menard  
277 Bay Rd  
Belchertown, MA 01007

**From:** [Gail Fleischaker](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:12:57 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Gail Fleischaker  
62 W Pelham Rd  
Shutesbury, MA 01072

**From:** [Hugh Joseph](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:11:38 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Hugh Joseph  
676 Hammond St  
Chestnut Hill, MA 02467

**From:** [Andrew Puchrik](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:10:05 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Andrew Puchrik  
164 Belknap St  
Concord, MA 01742

**From:** [Allison Schnipper](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:07:01 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Allison Schnipper  
30 Sandy Ridge Cir  
Sharon, MA 02067

**From:** [Jeanne Hobbie](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:05:38 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Jeanne Hobbie  
11 Olde Surrey Dr  
Acton, MA 01720

**From:** [Kathleen M Berigan](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:03:15 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Thank you very much.

Most sincerely,  
Kathleen M Berigan  
Conservation Commissioner  
Cohasset, MA

Sincerely,  
Kathleen M Berigan  
646 Jerusalem Rd.  
Unit 8  
Cohasset, MA 02025

**From:** [Donald Morgan](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:02:05 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

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Sincerely,  
Donald Morgan  
5 Ideal Ave  
Chelmsford, MA 01824

**From:** [Chrysa DaCosta](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:01:47 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Chrysa DaCosta  
13 Parsonage Ln  
Topsfield, MA 01983

**From:** [Andy Berkvist](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:01:32 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Andy Berkvist  
15 Bright St  
Northampton, MA 01060

**From:** [Mary Dudek](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:01:23 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

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Sincerely,  
Mary Dudek  
12 Old Goshen Rd  
Williamsburg, MA 01096

**From:** [Lee Roberts](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:57:56 AM

---

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First, I'd like to thank you and the Division of Marine Fisheries for drafting a strong proposed rule. In particular, I was glad to see the inclusion of more seasonal closures to fishing during the time of year that right whales are likely to be in the area. This is the type of bold action we'll need to save these whales.

I write today to urge you to include language that implements a pathway for the development and implementation of ropeless fishing gear. We know that the best way to prevent entanglements is to remove rope from the water, and the development and adoption of ropeless gear will provide a long term solution to this problem.

Sincerely,  
Lee Roberts  
3 Kenilworth Rd  
Winchester, MA 01890

**From:** [Amy Thompson](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:55:19 AM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

null

Dear Director McKiernan,

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Sincerely,  
Amy Thompson  
57 Jay St  
Cambridge, MA 02139

**From:** [Carol Foley](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:54:12 AM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

null

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Sincerely,  
Carol Foley  
105 Chestnut St  
Wilmington, MA 01887

**From:** [Sarah Duncklee](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:53:56 AM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Sarah Duncklee  
16 Gregory St  
Marblehead, MA 01945

**From:** [Moir Ashleigh](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:53:55 AM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Moir Ashleigh  
9 Buck Street  
9 Buck St  
Woburn, MA 01801

**From:** [George Scribner](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:53:33 AM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
George Scribner  
140 N Plain Rd  
Great Barrington, MA 01230

**From:** [Katherine Levin](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:53:07 AM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Katherine Levin  
32 Barker Rd Apt 2  
#2  
Scituate, MA 02066

**From:** [Sara Brydges](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:51:20 AM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Sara Brydges  
24 Martha's Point Rd  
Concord, MA 01742

**From:** [Sid Siff](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:47:49 AM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Sid Siff  
Main Street  
Apt 1  
Amherst, MA 01002

**From:** [Joyce Devlin](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:46:48 AM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Joyce Devlin  
6 Holly Ave  
Cambridge, MA 02138

**From:** [Anne Legene](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:44:59 AM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Anne Legene  
69 Welcome St  
Great Barrington, MA 01230

**From:** [JoAnne Larsen](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:41:43 AM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
JoAnne Larsen  
99 Goose Pond Rd  
Lee, MA 01238

**From:** [Ryan Houlette](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:40:02 AM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Ryan Houlette  
11 Newman St  
Cambridge, MA 02140

**From:** [Kennieth Burwood](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:37:42 AM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Kennieth Burwood  
267 Willis Ave  
Medford, MA 02155

**From:** [Cynthia Campbell](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:36:10 AM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Cynthia Campbell  
12 Cleveland St  
Arlington, MA 02474

**From:** [Michael Stone](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:33:57 AM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Michael Stone  
10 Telegraph Hill Rd  
Unit 24  
Falmouth, MA 02540

**From:** [Dennis DiTullio](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:33:44 AM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Dennis DiTullio  
16 Little John Rd  
Hatchville, MA 02536

**From:** [R. Tippens](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:33:20 AM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
R. Tippens  
68 Van Nuys Rd  
Colrain, MA 01340

**From:** [Don Hnatowich](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:31:58 AM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Don Hnatowich  
65 Naples Rd  
Brookline, MA 02446

**From:** [David Russell](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:31:50 AM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
David Russell  
9 Prescott Rd  
Ipswich, MA 01938

**From:** [John Seybold](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:31:42 AM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
John Seybold  
143 Belknap St  
Concord, MA 01742

**From:** [Roxy Gray](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:30:27 AM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Roxy Gray  
5 Paddock Cir  
Canton, MA 02021

**From:** [Sarah Stewart](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:28:30 AM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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I write today to urge you to include language that implements a pathway for the development and implementation of ropeless fishing gear. We know that the best way to prevent entanglements is to remove rope from the water, and the development and adoption of ropeless gear will provide a long term solution to this problem.

Sincerely,  
Sarah Stewart  
85 Garfield St  
Watertown, MA 02472

**From:** [Sherry Weiland](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:25:33 AM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

null

Dear Director McKiernan,

As a resident of Massachusetts, where the ocean forms an integral part of our state identity, keeping our beaches, coasts, and marine species and habitats healthy matters deeply to me. North Atlantic right whales, which swim in Massachusetts' waters, are one of our most at-risk species.

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Sincerely,  
Sherry Weiland  
144 Brook St  
Hudson, MA 01749

**From:** [Jessica Barnett](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:25:11 AM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

null

Dear Director McKiernan,

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Sincerely,  
Jessica Barnett  
100 Paddock Ln Apt 1110  
Boxborough, MA 01719

**From:** [Jonathan Kennedy](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:25:07 AM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Dear Director McKiernan,

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Sincerely,  
Jonathan Kennedy  
43 Taylor Hill Rd  
Montague, MA 01351

**From:** [Christine Roane](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:24:37 AM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Christine Roane  
123 Bronson Ter  
Address Line 2  
Springfield, MA 01108

**From:** [James Rogers](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:24:21 AM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
James Rogers  
46 Cogswell  
Apt 6  
Cambridge, MA 02140

**From:** [Jennifer Salhus](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:21:47 AM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Jennifer Salhus  
6 Naugatuck Avenue  
Norfolk, MA 02056

**From:** [Ardis Johnston](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:21:28 AM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Ardis Johnston  
994 West St  
Stoughton, MA 02072

**From:** [Kathleen Richards](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:21:26 AM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Kathleen Richards  
92 Lakeside Dr  
Monson, MA 01057

**From:** [Heidi Friedman](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:19:47 AM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Heidi Friedman  
88 Munroe St  
Somerville, MA 02143

**From:** [Christopher Hughes](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:19:35 AM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Christopher Hughes  
18 Crestview Dr  
18 Crestview Drive  
Westborough, MA 01581

**From:** [Michael Boss](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:18:46 AM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Michael Boss  
3 McKinley Dr  
Acton, MA 01720

**From:** [Katie Maloney](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:18:30 AM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Katie Maloney  
6 Walnut Ter # 2  
Newtonville, MA 02460

**From:** [Robert Race](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:17:59 AM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Robert Race  
50 Shore Dr  
Pittsfield, MA 01201

**From:** [Miriam Kurland](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:17:43 AM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Miriam Kurland  
566 East St  
Williamsburg, MA 01096

**From:** [Marie-Louise Jackson-Miller](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:17:17 AM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Marie-Louise Jackson-Miller  
63 Gay Street  
Quincy, MA 02169

**From:** [Mary Sterling](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:17:12 AM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Mary Sterling  
59 Hunters Ridge Rd  
Concord, MA 01742

**From:** [Jay Alexander](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:16:02 AM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Jay Alexander  
37 North St  
Belchertown, MA 01007

**From:** [Erin Haugh](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:14:51 AM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Erin Haugh  
15 Grist Mill Ln  
Hampden, MA 01036

**From:** [Dianne Bhattacharyya](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:14:46 AM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Dianne Bhattacharyya  
6D Heritage Way  
S Deerfield, MA 01373

**From:** [Vidya Sivan](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:13:54 AM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Vidya Sivan  
20 Penniman Rd  
Apt. 3  
Boston, MA 02134

**From:** [Sally Kiebdaj](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:12:34 AM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Sally Kiebdaj  
15 Newman Way  
Cambridge, MA 02476

**From:** [Isabella O'Connor](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:11:48 AM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Dear Director McKiernan,

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First, I'd like to thank you and the Division of Marine Fisheries for drafting a strong proposed rule. In particular, I was glad to see the inclusion of more seasonal closures to fishing during the time of year that right whales are likely to be in the area. This is the type of bold action we'll need to save these whales.

I write today to urge you to include language that implements a pathway for the development and implementation of ropeless fishing gear. We know that the best way to prevent entanglements is to remove rope from the water, and the development and adoption of ropeless gear will provide a long term solution to this problem.

Sincerely,  
Isabella O'Connor  
21 Wellesley College Rd Unit 6425  
Wellesley, MA 02481

**From:** [Gerald Beetham](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:11:28 AM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

null

Dear Director McKiernan,

As a resident of Massachusetts, where the ocean forms an integral part of our state identity, keeping our beaches, coasts, and marine species and habitats healthy matters deeply to me. North Atlantic right whales, which swim in Massachusetts' waters, are one of our most at-risk species.

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I write today to urge you to include language that implements a pathway for the development and implementation of ropeless fishing gear. We know that the best way to prevent entanglements is to remove rope from the water, and the development and adoption of ropeless gear will provide a long term solution to this problem.

I also urge the Commonwealth to consider subsidies to help fishermen overcome the higher costs of ropeless gear.

Sincerely,  
Gerald Beetham  
Tupelo dr.  
Harwich, MA 02645

**From:** [Robert Berry](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:11:20 AM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Robert Berry  
41 Mill St  
Apt. #213  
Marion, MA 02738

**From:** [Marian Lipke](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:11:17 AM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Marian Lipke  
122 Holly Tree Ln  
Vineyard Haven, MA 02568

**From:** [June Davenport](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:11:00 AM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
June Davenport  
P. O. Box 228  
24 Boylston Avenue  
Princeton, MA 01541

**From:** [Robert Beede](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:10:40 AM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Robert Beede  
1696 Monument Street  
Concord, MA 01742

**From:** [Fredric Moscovitz](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:10:28 AM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Fredric Moscovitz  
11 Mays Field Rd  
Lunenburg, MA 01462

**From:** [Judith Cooper](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:10:21 AM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Judith Cooper  
9 Jean Rd  
Lexington, MA 02421

**From:** [Pete LeDoux](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:10:20 AM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Pete LeDoux  
240 Hillcrest Rd  
Marshfield, MA 02050

**From:** [Barbara Darling-Smith](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:09:43 AM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Barbara Darling-Smith  
44 Caldwell St.  
Weymouth, MA 02191

**From:** [Paul Danielian](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:09:09 AM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Paul Danielian  
7 Bates Rd Apt 1  
Apt 1  
Arlington, MA 02474

**From:** [Elana Katz rose](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:09:03 AM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Elana Katz rose  
1 Pond View Cir  
Sharon, MA 02067

**From:** [Mona Young](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:08:41 AM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Mona Young  
24 Mahaiwe Street  
# 2  
Great Barrington, MA 01230

**From:** [Peter Cutting](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:08:09 AM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Peter Cutting  
15 N. Main St  
Charlton, MA 01507

**From:** [Cody Sullivan](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:07:58 AM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Cody Sullivan  
447 Commercial St.  
Provincetown, MA 02657

**From:** [Teresia LaFleur](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:07:38 AM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Teresia LaFleur  
40 Bigelow Dr  
Sudbury, MA 01776

**From:** [Robert Deysher](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:07:37 AM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Robert Deysher  
21 Lackey St  
Westborough, MA 01581

**From:** [Maureen Wooster](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:06:41 AM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Maureen Wooster  
6 Buckskin Ln  
Natick, MA 01760

**From:** [John Mason](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:06:15 AM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
John Mason  
122 Barton Dr  
Sudbury, MA 01776

**From:** [Janka Lovering](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:06:00 AM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Janka Lovering  
8 Poplar Rd  
Apt 1  
Cambridge, MA 02138

**From:** [Justin Small](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 11:06:00 AM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Justin Small  
5-B Notre Dame Street  
Westfield, MA 01085

**From:** [Aly Fogel](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Monday, December 14, 2020 4:48:06 PM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Sincerely,  
Aly Fogel  
24 Beacon St  
Boston, MA 02133

**From:** [Susanna Chivian](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 9:34:00 AM

---

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Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

RE: Do everything you can to save North Atlantic right whales

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Dear Director McKiernan,

As a resident of Massachusetts, where the ocean forms an integral part of our state identity, keeping our beaches, coasts, and marine species and habitats healthy matters deeply to me. North Atlantic right whales, which swim in Massachusetts' waters, are one of our most at-risk species.

First, I'd like to thank you and the Division of Marine Fisheries for drafting a strong proposed rule. In particular, I was glad to see the inclusion of more seasonal closures to fishing during the time of year that right whales are likely to be in the area. This is the type of bold action we'll need to save these whales.

I write today to urge you to include language that implements a pathway for the development and implementation of ropeless fishing gear. We know that the best way to prevent entanglements is to remove rope from the water, and the development and adoption of ropeless gear will provide a long term solution to this problem.

Sincerely,  
Susanna Chivian  
21 Cottage St  
Cambridge, MA 02139

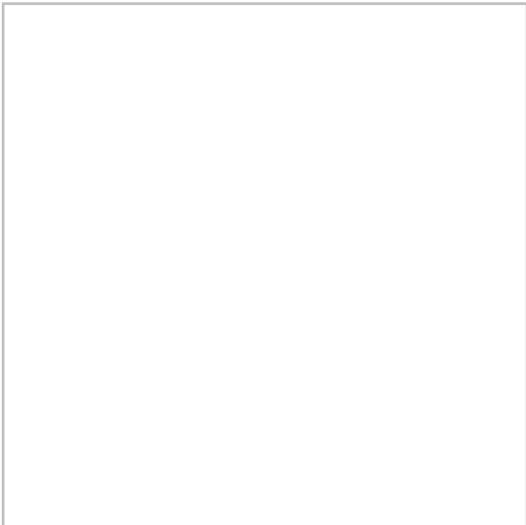
**From:** [House of Hope Inc](#)  
**To:** [Frank Masera \(CYSF\)](#)  
**Subject:** House of Hope Fall/Winter Newsletter  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 6:01:50 AM



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## The New Normal

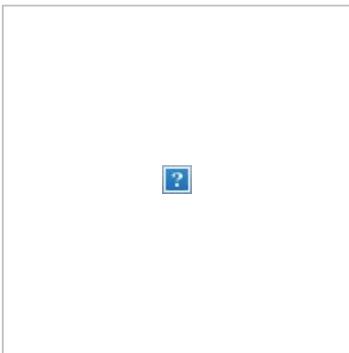
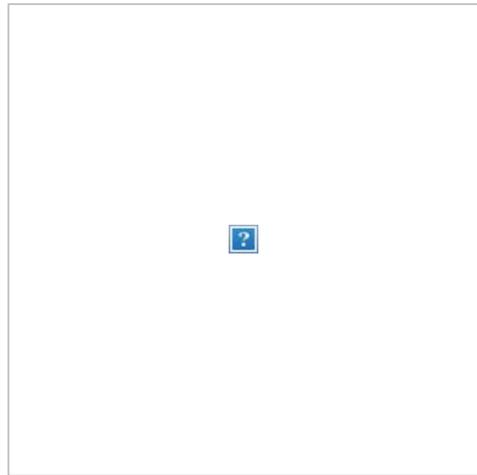
On top of a global pandemic and the hardships of being homeless, our families have also had to deal with sending their children to school and with the unfamiliar world of remote learning. Read more about how our team has supported the schoolchildren living under our roof, and how duties have changed with the changing times, in the



[newsletter.](#)

## The Hope Chest Returns

The Hope Chest, our clothing store at 397 Market St. in Lowell has once again opened its doors. We follow strict guidelines around mask-wearing and social-distancing to keep our staff and customers safe and healthy, and are open limited hours but with the same affordable prices. [Read more here.](#)



## How You Can Help

As a result of COVID-19, House of Hope has had to make a few changes to the ways we can accept help from our community. While we are limiting in-person donations to our shelters, we would be grateful for any donations purchased and shipped through our online [Amazon Wish List](#) or [Walmart List](#). [Read more about our most needed items.](#)



## House of Hope Inc

812 Merrimack Street  
Lowell, MA 01854  
(978) 458 2870



House of Hope Inc | 812 Merrimack Street, Lowell, MA 01854

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Sent by [jennifer.sharkey@houseofhopelowell.org](mailto:jennifer.sharkey@houseofhopelowell.org) powered by



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**CONSERVATION LAW FOUNDATION  
CENTER FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY \* DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE  
NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL**

December 15, 2020

Daniel McKiernan  
Director  
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA 02114  
[marine.fish@mass.gov](mailto:marine.fish@mass.gov)

Re: New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing

Dear Director McKiernan,

On behalf of Conservation Law Foundation, Center for Biological Diversity, Defenders of Wildlife, and the Natural Resources Defense Council, please accept these comments regarding the proposed amendments to regulations at 322 CMR 6.00, 7.00, and 12.00, designed to reduce the risk of North Atlantic right whales becoming entangled in fixed fishing gear.<sup>1</sup>

The species' future is in doubt without immediate action. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) recently determined that since 2017 alone, fishing gear entanglements and vessel strikes have killed or seriously injured at least 32 right whales and another 13 whales have been found dead from undetermined causes. Recent information indicates the actual number of right whale deaths is higher, averaging 24 whales per year. And in the last decade, the population has decreased by 25 percent—a wholly unsustainable rate of loss. Every individual must be protected to avoid the species' extinction. These new regulations will reduce the risk that right whales will continue to be entangled, seriously injured, and killed in Massachusetts state waters.

The regulations proposed by the Division of Marine Fisheries (MA DMF) are a big step in the right direction given the increasing use of Massachusetts state waters by right whales to seasonally forage in winter and spring. As part of its recent submission to NMFS associated with the upcoming rulemaking to amend the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan, MA DMF described the importance of Cape Cod Bay:

Approximately 65% of the known right whale population visits Cape Cod Bay each year. This is the largest known aggregation of North Atlantic right whales in the world. In a single day in April 2017, a total of 179 right whales were observed in Cape Cod Bay. This represents a peak observed density of 10 right whales/cubic mile of water. To put this in perspective, the Gulf of St. Lawrence, an area which hosts large aggregations of right whales in recent years and has been the epicenter of an Unusual Mortality Event since 2017, has only ever reached a known peak density of 0.012 whales per cubic mile of water, in June 2018. This underscores the importance of the Massachusetts Bay

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<sup>1</sup> November 13, 2020. Notice of Public Comment Period and Public Hearings on New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fisheries. MA Division of Marine Fisheries. <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/proposed-amendments-to-division-of-marine-fisheries-regulations>.

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CENTER FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY \* DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE  
NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL**

Restricted Area (MBRA) as an effective means of eliminating entanglements.<sup>2</sup>

However, recent right whale sightings (2017 to present) demonstrate that right whales frequently use Cape Cod Bay in the shoulder months (January and May).<sup>3</sup> Thus, the current closure between February 1 and April 30 is not sufficient to protect right whales as they transit to and from other important foraging habitats south, east, and north of this area.

As it stands now, the only effective ways to reduce this risk are to: (1) close certain areas at certain times to fixed gear fishing, and (2) reduce the number of vertical lines in the water column when fishing is allowed. **Specifically, we support these proposed Fixed Gear Closures and Trap Gear Restrictions:**

1. Extending the commercial trap/pot closure to all state waters under the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth (322 CMR 12.04, 12.08, & 12.11);
2. Expanding the size of the gillnet closure in Cape Cod Bay to include Gurnet Point and Scituate Harbor (322 CMR 12.04, 12.08, and 12.12);
3. Retaining the authority to extend these two closures, if whales are present (322 CMR 12.04);
4. Closing the recreational trap/pot fishery between Columbus Day and Memorial Day (322 CMR 6.02); and
5. Prohibiting fishing with singles on vessels greater than 29 feet (322 CMR 12.06).

However, given the urgency of the right whale's situation and the critical importance of Massachusetts state waters, we believe MA DMF must implement additional protective measures. **Therefore, we also urge the State to:**

- 1. Extend the trap/pot closure so that it begins on January 1;**
- 2. Develop a trigger for additional closures for those times when right whales aggregate outside of the closure time periods;**
- 3. Extend vessel speed restrictions to all state waters between January 1 and May 15;**
- 4. Require gear markings on all lines every 40 feet; and**
- 5. Require a vessel tracking system on all commercially permitted vessels.**

We do not support weak rope as a long-term solution. *See* 322 CMR 12.02 and 12.06. Although we are fully aware of the academic research supporting a hypothesis that weak rope may decrease the frequency or severity of entanglements, this hypothesis has not been empirically

tested or proven. Although the proposed regulations codifying the requirements for a 1700-lb contrivance and maximum buoy line diameters might eventually be demonstrated to reduce the

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<sup>2</sup> Mass. Div. of Marine Fisheries, 2020 Massachusetts Right Whale Conservation Plan (2020) at 2, <https://www.mass.gov/doc/massachusetts-right-whale-conservation-plan-2020/download>.

<sup>3</sup> *See* NMFS, *NOAA Right Whale Sightings Advisory System*, <https://appsnefsc.fisheries.noaa.gov/psb/surveys/MapperiframeWithText.html>; *see also* Whale Map: Latest Right Whale Observations, <https://whalemap.ocean.dal.ca/#map>; Center for Coastal Studies, *Field Notes 2019*, <https://coastalstudies.org/right-whale-research/field-notes/field-notes-2018-2019/> (last visited Dec. 1, 2020).

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number of adult North Atlantic right whale deaths, entanglements in weak rope or narrow rope will still adversely affect the reproductive success of the species. Moreover, any entanglement is still a prohibited “take” under the ESA. Finally, weak rope affords little protection to other vulnerable marine life such as humpbacks, sea turtles, and young right whales, all of which are federally protected under the Endangered Species Act and/or Marine Mammal Protection Act.

To conclude, we specifically address comments made during the hearings related to on-demand or “ropeless” fishing. We fully support on-demand fishing but given that the technology is still evolving and that the Bay has the highest seasonal density of right whales in the world, we cannot advocate for unrestricted use or expedited permitting until there is a larger conversation about the relative risks associated with such fishing in the Bay. As an interim step, we recommend that MA DMF lead the conversation on next steps for on-demand fisheries in State waters and strongly suggest that these conversations include input from regulators, fishermen, scientists, and conservationists.

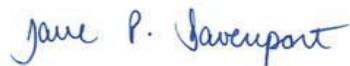
Respectfully submitted this 15th day of December, 2020,



Erica Fuller, Senior Attorney  
Conservation Law Foundation  
[efuller@clf.org](mailto:efuller@clf.org)



Kristen Monsell, Oceans Legal Director  
Center for Biological Diversity  
[kmonsell@biologicaldiversity.org](mailto:kmonsell@biologicaldiversity.org)



Jane Davenport, Senior Attorney  
Defenders of Wildlife  
[jdavenport@defenders.org](mailto:jdavenport@defenders.org)



Francine Kershaw, Ph.D., Staff Scientist  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
[fkershaw@nrdc.org](mailto:fkershaw@nrdc.org)

**From:** [Wendy Hollis](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 9:24:05 PM

---

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Dear Director Daniel McKiernan,

Massachusetts can be a leader in the fight to save the North Atlantic right whale.

With less than 400 individuals remaining, the North Atlantic right whale is one of the most critically endangered marine animals in the world. Entanglement in fishing gear and collisions with ships are pushing the species towards extinction. We must take strong action today before it's too late to save them.

North Atlantic right whales migrating through the waters of the East Coast must navigate a maze of deadly vertical rope. Ropeless fishing gear can be the solution that we need to save right whales and keep fishermen on the water.

A viable pathway for permitting ropeless fishing gear should be included in the new proposed regulations in order to fully address the issue of entanglement. Removing vertical buoy rope from the water and providing a permitting structure for fishermen to legally utilize 21st century technology is the only long-term solution to reduce the entanglement risk to right whales while ensuring a sustainable future for Massachusetts fishing communities.

cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [John Thomson](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 9:58:19 AM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Sharon Kuong](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 8:32:03 AM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [James McKowen](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Monday, December 14, 2020 10:28:48 PM

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Dear Director Daniel McKiernan,

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Theodora Boura](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Monday, December 14, 2020 8:58:48 PM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [katie lane](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Monday, December 14, 2020 8:12:03 PM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Louisa Wellington](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Monday, December 14, 2020 4:12:47 PM

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [DAVE MAGEE](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Proposal of Commercial Trap Gear Closure  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 4:44:54 PM

---

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Director McKiernan,

I am opposed to the Proposal of fixed gear February 1 to April 30<sup>th</sup> Trap Closure in Massachusetts State Waters.

Understanding the true effects of the Proposal of fixed gear February 1 – April 30<sup>th</sup> Trap Closure in Massachusetts State Waters. Reality of closing is that it could take up to one month to pull traps out of the water for actual closure for February 1 – April 30<sup>th</sup>. This in return creates extra expenses on both ends (Feb & April) and a loss of more income. Many factors play into this equation that simply can't be predicted. Weather conditions in which allow vessels to go out to pull gear in the month of January. The number of traps each vessel can physically bring gear in and out at a time.

Lobstering as a livelihood is a very difficult way of life. Nothing is written in stone making it very unpredictable. Lobstering is unlike most normal careers. In normal careers, people work a set amount of hours a week to make a living, and or to make a set amount of income. With Lobstering, EVERYTHING depends on the weather, and by weather I simply don't mean it being bright and sunny. I mean, the tides, the wind, and the swells, along with the water temperature. All these variables are different for each individual lobsterman. Due to individual's vessel, availability, manpower and so many other factors, that simply can't be explained in a sentence or two.

Personally, I fish approximately 36 trips From February to April, (approximate break down two weekly trips in February, three weekly trips in March and four weekly trips in April). Again this is an approximation because it truly varies year to year.

I fish Massachusetts Area 2 Southern New England and been fishing there for 40 years. This closure will severely affect my business and the ability to support my family. Massachusetts Area 2 has had more regulations than any other Area in Massachusetts. In the 40 years I have been fishing, State regulations have been put in place with very little consideration to the livelihoods of fishermen. Approximately 20+ years ago we were given trap allocations limiting us to 800 traps. Reducing my traps from 2000 traps down to 800 traps was catastrophic. Regulations were implemented ONLY to Area 2 had a larger gauge size. Over the last 5 years we were given ANOTHER regulation of a 50% trap reduction. Regulations to protect the right whales have been implemented, such as the conversion to non-floating rope was applied to all fixed gear. This regulation although extremely costly at the time was done for the protection of right whales and all other whales. This next proposal of fixed gear trap closure will probably put me and other Area 2 lobster fisherman out of business.

There have been no right whale entanglements in the 40 years that I've been fishing in Area 2 Massachusetts State Waters. We have a good winter and spring fishery. February through April the lobster prices are at their highest. I along with most full time lobstermen that fish Area 2 Massachusetts State waters make approximately

30% of our income in those three months. By going through with this proposal I along with most of these other lobstermen will not be able to survive this closure. Closing Area 2 Massachusetts State Waters will have absolutely no effect on the right whale survival. This proposal is SIMPLY to appease the environmental groups trying to save the whales.

What needs to be understood about this proposal is that this income simply cannot be made up in the other months. Trips cannot be simply added on during the other months. Again, due to regulations that have been previously set forth by the state. Reduction in the amount of traps allowed to be fished and trap tag allocation. Thus making it impossible to simply "make up the lost trips by adding more trips"(i.e. traps need to set for a certain amount of time, before they can be hauled.) The amount of traffic that transpires during the other months, loss of gear due to that traffic, availability of employees, and so many other factors. All of which also includes the unpredictability of weather.

There are around 20–25 full time lobstermen that fish Area 2 Massachusetts State Waters compared to 780 for the entire state of Massachusetts. This closure will do absolutely nothing for the right whales and will probably destroy the livelihood of the few fishermen left in Massachusetts Area 2 lobster fishery. We simply cannot sustain any more regulations or closures.

Think of it this way, what would you do if you were told that you now have to do your job and take an immediate cut in pay of 30%, no questions asked. More than likely you might think about getting another job. The problem here is that we simply can't just go get another job. We have not only our life invested, which includes monetary, and nautical/skills knowledge, but also usually our entire financial portfolio.

Thus this proposal of closing fixed gear for Massachusetts State waters February 1<sup>st</sup> – April 30<sup>th</sup> is simply and completely unreasonable. Especially because the closure will have absolutely no effect on the right whales. There has not been a documented right whale death due to rope entanglement from a Massachusetts Area 2 State Water fisherman.

Area 2 Lobsterman should not have to suffer, be blamed or pay for right whale deaths or rope entanglements. Most documented whale deaths are due to ship strikes, of which regulations have been implemented for ships to regulate their speed.

The only consequence on the implementation of this proposal Commercial Trap Gear Closure February 1-April 30<sup>th</sup> is that Area 2 Lobstermen livelihoods will be destroyed. It will have absolutely no effect on any right whale or any whale for that matter.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Dave Magee

**From:** [jasongale2@aol.com](mailto:jasongale2@aol.com)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [jasongale2@aol.com](mailto:jasongale2@aol.com); [rgale242@gmail.com](mailto:rgale242@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Proposed lobster fishery closure  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 10:24:43 AM  
**Attachments:** [Screenshot\\_20201215-070547~2.png](#)  
[Screenshot\\_20201215-070522~2.png](#)

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Dan ,

After reading into this further , I see that you're finally including the seasonal student permits , as well as , the recreational permits to be further regulated along with us commercial guys.

THANK YOU for That!

I'd like to make a few points regarding some of these proposals. I understand the predicament you are in , its tough to keep all sides happy, but I'm hoping we use a little common sense to adjust these proposals.

- Instead of a maximum vessel length of 29' for vessels to fish singles , why not say no singles outside of 1/2 mile from the beach? We coastal guys fish trawls out in the tide and singles in 15' of water close to the beach (its most efficient this way, and safer) . Also what do you do about buzzards bay and south of the Elizabeth islands where lobster trawls are prohibited ?

My current boat is 28' but my boat that is under construction is 38'(could I be grandfathered?) , I want to continue to fish singles on the beach , this proposal goes through my new boat will be useless and its due here mid January.

- Why not put a temporary moratorium on the seasonal student permits , until more data is collected , or at the very least cut those permits back to 15 traps?

- The off season closure for recreational trap fishing is a great start , but as I've mentioned to you in the past , the commercial guys allocations have been cut back so dramatically , Why not cut the rec permits to 5 traps? I'm not sure of the yearly amount of rec permits issued , but I'm sure cutting the number of traps to 5 will drastically improve the number of vertical lines in the water.

I know that opposing the commercial closure probably won't do much good , but my hope is that maybe tweaking these proposals it will offer up a little compromise between these groups that seem way too far apart at the moment.

Please let me know that this email has been read.

Thank you ,  
Jason Gale F/V Watch Out  
774-563-8857

**From:** [reeldeaded](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Protected Species Public Comment  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:14:30 PM

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Director McKiernan and the MA Fisheries Commission,

I write to you not as a commercial lobsterman, but as a sportsman, an environmentalist, a wharf rat, and seafood consumer. I have been following the situation regarding the North Atlantic right whale since the early 2000s. The current state of affairs is tragic. To think that just 10 years ago, this was the promising story about an endangered species on the rebound and in the decade sense we have lost all those gains and the species again on the precipice of extinction.

Unfortunately, this species faces a number of complex challenges that complicate its recovery. It is a migratory species that needs to feed on reliable densities of plankton as it travels. We know that changing oceanographic conditions - likely a byproduct of climate change - are affecting the time-area distribution of plankton. As a result, plankton is less dense in times and areas where the right whales need it. This causes physical stress to the animals by requiring them to travel further to feed and to do so with less nutrition. Additionally, by altering migratory patterns the species is now found in areas ill prepared to regulate and manage the threats posed by vessel strikes and interactions with fixed fishing gear, particularly in areas like the mouth of the St. Lawrence river where there is substantial shipping traffic and high densities of heavy lobster and crab fishing gear.

We down here in Massachusetts have a congested urban coastline, but we are also used to dealing with the right whale and have been leaders for a quarter century. The federal government has established real-time vessel monitoring controls alerting mariners to the presence of these whales to reduce the risk of ship strikes. Similarly, the state and federal government have rules affecting vessel speed in areas where densities are right whales are known to occur. The fishing industry has been required to adopt gear modifications and suffer closures to reduce the entanglement risk. I've seen the Yankee ingenuity of my port's lobstermen first hand, as they work hard to solve the engineering, political, and economic challenges posed by continuing right whale conservation efforts.

I know that the Massachusetts lobster industry has often been a begrudging partner in right whale conservation, but they have been a partner nevertheless. I also think they have some obvious and legitimate frustrations with managing towards potential risk or zero risk, which produces a never ending set of new burdens. However, they are also a unique group of small businessmen. They take conservation seriously and have shown a willingness to help

fix solvable problems. Their livelihood is inexorably tied to their ability to do this and they are acutely aware of that reality. Time after time, these business owners have been required to reconfigure operations, both as a matter of care and a matter of wallet. Too frequently, these adjustments force them to become less efficient and less profitable, and unfortunately, sometimes also less safe.

It's hard not to take begrudging stances and sound off your frustrations when faced with this reality. In fact, many of these lobstermen should be commended for their diplomacy. I'm not sure we'd all be so genuine and reserved if this was our livelihood on the line. I think this is a reality that is obvious along our working waterfronts, but not in our urban areas, leafy suburbs, and college campuses where the NGOs canvass and fund raise. This has created a substantial gulf in understanding what is feasible and what is a death blow to a legacy industry.

Last week, with the aid of some scotch, I listened in to both of your public hearings. This gulf in opinion was evident. I heard the impassioned pleas by conservationists advocating that we must do all we can to save the whales, including going above and beyond the state's proposal. I also heard earnest comments from frustrated fisherman who felt the state's rules to close the Sounds and Buzzards Bay and prohibit single traps were arbitrary and would carry excessive carry the economic burden compared to risk reduction. Lastly, I heard from state officials who seem to be in the crossfire trying to thread a needle among a federal lawsuit and a federal government that has decided that dragging its feet is a political goal rather than a means to accommodate a better solution.

I don't envy your decision making on this. I think most of what is being proposed by the state is doable and sensible. However, I'm not certain there is a real risk reduction benefit to enacting a closure in Buzzards Bay. This is not the Gulf of Maine, the industry in this area is consolidated and the resource is scarce. Losing the winter fishery would impose additional economic hardships with what I assume is negligible risk reduction to a negligible risk. Unfortunately, I think the cold reality is that this fishery will be sacrificed to help obtain the federal take permit so that the fishery north of the Cape may continue.

The comments on the single trap requirements were also interesting. Some Cape Cod fishermen indicated that being forced to trawl up would gravely impact their safety and fishing operations. However, my understanding of the proposal is that "trawl up" can include going to fishing two traps on a string, not having to fish long trawls. I'm uncertain how going from fishing singles to fishing doubles would generate these problems. I wish the fishermen would have been pressed on this a bit more so that the public could have a greater understanding of the problem. Moreover, I wish the timeline for moving forward with the state regulations was less truncated so that this could be given more consideration. However, I expect that similarly to the southern fishery, the single trap fishery is a sacrificial lamb in the federal take permit application.

I know it was not on the agenda and the state made clear that it wanted to avoid discussion of the subject. However, as others have, I must also take the liberty to comment on the elephant in the room that is ropeless fishing.

Many whale advocates, college students, and other assorted idealists commented in favor of a swift transition to ropeless fishing. These calls were aided by folks in the business of selling and profiting from this technology. They argue this is a necessary step to save the whales and that the technology is more advanced than it is. They want to speak it into existence.

The reality is that a transition to ropeless fishing is a pipedream. There are very real economic and practical challenges to implementing such a system. This is a point that both the Conservation Law Foundation and Whale and Dolphin USA made at one of the hearings. Nevertheless the demands persist. It appears that the ropeless advocates also believe the state is covering for the lobster industry and is negligent in its response to the fact that unicorns are real. As you may be able to tell, I find the call for ropeless fishing to be a poor thought out position that is more a feel good fund raising campaign masquerading a legitimate public policy position.

The technology itself is insufficient. Its advocates like to equivocate that this gear is already used in New Zealand and Australia, so obviously it can be used in Massachusetts. This is comparing apples to beef jerky and anyone with any intellectual honesty recognizes this. My understand is that the rock lobster fisheries in New Zealand and Australia have fewer participants, low gear densities, and are zoned off from mobile gear fisheries. This is not the case in Massachusetts. We have nearly 1,000 fishermen fishing in our coastal waters; our gear densities are significant; and we have multiple gear types fishing the same bottom reliant on surface marking requirements to identify fixed gear locations.

Bottomline, this technology does not function with the spatial resolution necessary to work in Massachusetts. I believe a Canadian ropeless fishing technology advocate stated that the technology works when gear is spaced out by about .25 miles. Unless we greatly shrink the lobster fishery, this resolution is insufficient for Massachusetts'.

If overlooked and implemented, there will be conflicts among fishermen and ultimately fisherman safety issues. To summarize a statement made at one of the hearings, any regulation implemented should ensure that our fishermen get home. I 100% agree with this sentiment. If fishermen are setting over each other, then there is added need to handle gear with additional tension on it. This additional load increases the risk of capsizing, of getting caught in gear, and getting injured or worse by snapping lines. It also makes fishermen less efficient, as they have to spend more time handling gear issues.

Additionally, it poses a risk to trawlers or dredge boats that may become snagged on buoy less gear, lose their center of gravity, and capsize. It's not infrequent for fishermen to die because of hang ups or grappling, do we want to increase this risk?

I'm not sure that even the most ardent environmentalist would be willing to take that callous of a position (at least publicly). That's a political loser. Then to implement ropeless it becomes obvious that the state must also discuss downsizing the lobster fleet to reduce gear density and creating user zones to avoid interactions between competing gears.

This will make the razor thin margins facing our working waterfronts even thinner. They'll tell you it's death by 1,000 paper cuts and I wouldn't call them liars. These economic impacts won't just be felt by the lobster industry, they will be felt by the entire working waterfront. The lobster industry is the lifeblood of Massachusetts ports. The lobster fishery supports bait fisheries; the fish mongers who buy their product and the fish houses that sell them fish skins and racks; the gear supply stores and manufacturers that outfit them with traps and ropes; the boatyards and mechanics that service their vessels and engines; the gas stations and ice houses that rely on their commerce; even the truck seal folks get a cut of it. If the lobster industry gets cut at the knees then so does the waterfront.

Then once we scale down the industry and cripple the waterfront, let's talk about the cost of implementing this technology. The state testified at hearing that it would cost more than \$100M to outfit the current MA fishery with ropeless technology. Quick math, that's an initial capital investment of ~\$100,000 per fisherman. That's a staggering investment for small businesses to make in a technology that likely won't work at the resolution it needs to. Moreover, what is the cost of annual maintenance when the gear is lost to storms or gear conflicts? What's the environmental cost to our nearshore waters of more lost gear?

Lastly, to some degree it is a solution in search of a problem. In the past 25-years, MA trap gear has entangled exactly two right whales, and according to the state's testimony at public hearing, these right whales were successfully disentangled. Zero right whale mortalities have been associated with the state's trap fisheries. The risk posed by this gear has been minimized over time through the gear modifications and time-area closures adopted by the state, and the risk will be further minimized through these newly proposed regulations.

We are rapidly approaching a point where we are trying to divide zero and it is now that we seek to impose a costly technological regime shift. Seems indefensible and irresponsible, so it's probably good for fundraising. Stop the Steal; Roadmap to Ropeless - two sides of the same deranged political coin. If the environmentalists want to save the whales and not kill the lobster industry, I'd suggest they focus they set their sites offshore and towards Canada. Look for ways to make the heavy gear fished in these areas less dangerous and address the emerging shipstrike issues.

These problems impeding right whale recovery are trans-national and trans-industry. They are certainly not going to be fixed by this endeavor to impose a ropeless fishing regime in Massachusetts alone. We are at the southernmost point of the commercial fishery for lobster, we represent a small segment of the north Atlantic lobster industry, we boast a family business fleet, we have thoughtful fishermen, a suite of conservation measures not

seen anywhere else, and we have a state with a diverse economy. It's almost as if we are not the problem, but just an easy target ripe for fundraising.

I don't know what your solution is. I know it's not ropeless, but I fear that momentum and sentiment will continue to prevail against common sense. I think your proposals are probably heavy handed in terms of risk-reward to whales, but likely necessary to meet the risk-reward calculation resulting from legal challenges facing the state. It's never ideal to make decisions with a gun to your head. Do what you need to do to keep the wolves at bay and our working waterfronts working. If you can manage to get your federal permit without destroying the waterfront, I'll send the folks at IFAW a lobster dinner.

Cheers,

Ed

Sent with [ProtonMail](#) Secure Email.

Sent with [ProtonMail](#) Secure Email.

**From:** [keren tonnesen](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE public Comment to Director Daniel McKiernan  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 3:49:24 PM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

This is so hopeful. We just had a humpback death on Norton point on MV.  
Death from gear entanglement. Barbaric. If people were to see this amazing creature in person they would be moved to action. Please continue to fight for more protections.

We are trying to do our part.

<https://pathwaysmv.org/ma-division-of-marine-fisheries-hearing/>

<https://pathwaysmv.org/oceans-film-series-1-25-2020/>

Keren Tonnesen

Co-Director PathwaysARTS

PathwaysMV.org

508 627 2516

**From:** [Valli Hamilton](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Right Whale Preservation  
**Date:** Monday, December 14, 2020 5:07:19 PM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please consider ropeless gear as a way to save right whales from extinction. It has a proven effective rate of 98.4%.

Thank you,  
Valli Hamilton  
Edgartown, MA

**From:** [Susan Grant](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 9:26:31 AM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Susan Grant  
Humarock, MA 02047

**From:** [Randolph Monti](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 9:24:01 AM

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Thank you.

Randolph Monti  
, 03216-3628

**From:** [Julie Szegda](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 4:20:50 PM

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Thank you.

Julie Szegda  
West Roxbury, MA 02132

**From:** [Diana Lewis](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 4:15:29 PM

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Thank you.

Diana Lewis  
East Longmeadow, MA 01028

**From:** [Joseph Nunes](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 4:13:21 PM

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Thank you.

Joseph Nunes  
Andover, MA 01810

**From:** [Maria Barth](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 4:07:26 PM

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Thank you.

Maria Barth  
Somerville, MA 02143

**From:** [Lee Scheffey](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 4:04:55 PM

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Thank you.

Lee Scheffey  
Pawtucket, RI 02861

**From:** [Diane Lipka](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 3:59:42 PM

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Thank you.

Diane Lipka  
Hubbardston, MA 01452

**From:** [pharr.schulenburg](mailto:pharr.schulenburg)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 3:55:27 PM

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Thank you.

pharr.schulenburg  
Eastham, MA 02642

**From:** [Ali Blake](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 3:49:35 PM

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Ali Blake  
Dedham, MA 02026

**From:** [Bruce Littlefield](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 3:44:59 PM

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Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Bruce Littlefield  
Andover, MA 01810

**From:** [Kristi Mauro](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 3:42:03 PM

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Kristi Mauro  
Jewett City, CT 06351

**From:** [Debbie Mccarthy](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 3:37:06 PM

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Thank you.

Debbie Mccarthy  
Phillips, ME 04966

**From:** [Elaine Salvo](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 3:31:42 PM

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Thank you.

Elaine Salvo  
Brockton, MA 02302

**From:** [katie lane](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 3:26:50 PM

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Thank you.

katie lane  
Somerville, MA 02145

**From:** [Theodora Boura](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 3:22:06 PM

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Theodora Boura  
Boston, MA 02135

**From:** [Lisa Geary](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 3:19:35 PM

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Lisa Geary  
Dorchester, MA 02122

**From:** [John Hondrogen](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 3:15:19 PM

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John Hondrogen  
Pelham, MA 01002

**From:** [Clay Fernald](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 3:11:50 PM

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Clay Fernald  
, 02135-2587

**From:** [Raina D'Orazio](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 3:07:34 PM

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Raina D'Orazio  
West Newbury, MA 01985

**From:** [Paulina Padron](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 3:03:56 PM

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Paulina Padron  
South Grafton, MA 01560

**From:** [Patrick Facht](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 3:01:26 PM

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Patrick Facht  
, 85248-2730

**From:** [Robert Cucinelli](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Monday, December 14, 2020 4:38:40 PM

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Robert Cucinelli  
Quincy, MA 02169

**From:** [Danielle Martin](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Monday, December 14, 2020 4:33:13 PM

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Danielle Martin  
Scituate, MA 02066

**From:** [Kelly Western](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Monday, December 14, 2020 4:28:33 PM

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Kelly Western  
Acton, MA 01720

**From:** [Charles Stevenson](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Monday, December 14, 2020 4:25:01 PM

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Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Charles Stevenson  
North Adams, MA 01247

**From:** [Susan Lemont](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Monday, December 14, 2020 4:21:07 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Susan Lemont  
Arlington, MA 02476

**From:** [Pam Winthrop](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Monday, December 14, 2020 4:18:37 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Pam Winthrop  
Oakland, CA 94619

**From:** [John Burridge](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 9:30:37 AM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

John Burridge  
East Providence, RI 02914

**From:** [John Hondrogen](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whales!  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 9:14:44 AM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

The right whale population is dwindling. Scientists estimate that there are only 366 left. NOW is the time to act. We need greater measures in order to save them from extinction! Ropeless fishing gear can help solve the problem of right whale entanglements while helping the fishing industry thrive. This needs to be considered in your draft regulations.

Thank you,  
John Hondrogen, Pelham, MA



## F/V VOYAGER

Todd M. Jesse

27 Olmstead Terrace, Plymouth, MA 02360

(508) 747-4938

December 8, 2020

Dear Director McKiernan,

I would like to submit these comments for the New Protected Species Regulations.

- A different color tracer for Massachusetts waters. A separate one for Cape Cod Bay and a separate one for Nantucket Sound.
- 3/8 line maximum size is good
- A line that breaks at 1700 pounds or the "South Shore Sleeve" is workable
- Since the whales are in the southern part of the bay first maybe the Northern part of the bay could stay open later into February
- A review or sunset date if in case the whale patterns change. Maybe the feed never comes back into the bay. We do not know what the future brings, so a scheduled review would be good.

Respectfully,



Todd M Jesse

**From:** [Thomas Lees](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** AREA 2 closure  
**Date:** Monday, December 14, 2020 12:19:56 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello this is hunter lees. I hold an area 2 state/fed lobster License along with pot endorsements.

I'm writing in regards to the recent closure that is supposed to take place in February of 2021. I am strongly OPPOSED to this closure. 25% of my income takes place during this closure. I have purchased a newer vessel recently, bought more tags, new gear etc. To close lobstering down in our area would greatly effect myself and others. How many whales have been spotted in area 2 over the last few years? 2020 was hard due to COVID 19 and now to close us down? It seems as if they want to put us out of business. Trap reduction, whale breakaways and more seems not to be good enough. I am 100% against this closure. Families will be effected tremendously.

Thank you and merry Xmas  
Hunter Lees

**From:** [McKiernan, Dan \(FWE\)](#)  
**To:** [Kaplan, Julia \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Glenn, Robert \(FWE\)](#); [Burke, Erin \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Closing of Mass State Water to Loberstering  
**Date:** Monday, December 14, 2020 1:15:33 PM

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**From:** pointgp@aol.com <pointgp@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 14, 2020 1:09 PM  
**To:** McKiernan, Dan (FWE) <dan.mckiernan@mass.gov>  
**Subject:** Closing of Mass State Water to Loberstering

**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dan: As a Massachusetts resident, I urge the state to find other alternatives to the current closing of Mass State waters to commercial lobster fishing.

We have all suffered enough this year, without taking away the lively hood of these fishermen.

Thanks for you consideration in this matter..

Michael A. Pinto

**From:** [McKiernan, Dan \(FWE\)](#)  
**To:** [Kaplan, Julia \(FWE\)](#); [Silva, Jared \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Glenn, Robert \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Closure south coast  
**Date:** Monday, December 14, 2020 12:23:05 PM

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-----Original Message-----

From: Joanne OL <jartoleary@gmail.com>  
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 12:16 PM  
To: McKiernan, Dan (FWE) <dan.mckiernan@mass.gov>  
Subject: Closure south coast

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please allow lobster fishing in south coast area being considered for shut down. Keep the businesses alive. Right whales will still be protected.

Quotes from lobsterman D. Durr

“ So here is the issue, I have somewhere in the ballpark of 2000 days over 20,000 hours over the last 20 plus years in that little red area. I have never witnessed a right whale in those waters, never. Nor do I know anyone who has. I'm not saying one has never wondered of migration. But if they do we're ready. Reduced vertical lines by trap reductions, whales safe rope, breakaways that create a weak point on vertical lines. We have done what we can and have literally reduced whale entanglement to 0 in this area.

..south coast lobster business can't take this type of economic impact. There are no right whales in these water to save. A closure in this area won't save one whale but it will put people out of business. “

Thanks, Joanne OLeary

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [McKiernan, Dan \(FWE\)](#)  
**To:** [Kaplan, Julia \(FWE\)](#); [Burke, Erin \(FWE\)](#); [Glenn, Robert \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Coastal waters closed to lobstermen  
**Date:** Monday, December 14, 2020 1:31:28 PM

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**From:** Duncan K Law Jr <dklawjr2@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 14, 2020 1:20 PM  
**To:** McKiernan, Dan (FWE) <dan.mckiernan@mass.gov>  
**Subject:** Coastal waters closed to lobstermen

**CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

As conservationists, southcoast lobstermen have not only met all previous regulations but have worked with the state to help reduce entanglements. Our south coast lobster business can't take this type of economic impact. Depending on the boat this will be a 20-30% reduction in total value and roughly 15-20% of the yearly landings. Already operating on slim margins this will most definitely impact the guys here on the southcoast and put their livelihoods at stake.

Most of the impacted lobstermen have been fishing the affected waters for 20 years. They have reduced vertical lines by trap reductions, whalesafe rope, breakaways that create a weak point on vertical lines. These lobstermen have done what we can and have literally reduced whale entanglement to 0 in this designated area. Typically the migration path brings them just off the southeast corner of Nantucket. There are no right whales in these waters to save. A closure in this area won't save one whale, but it will put people out of business.

Duncan K Law Jr  
508-636-6058  
781-640-2629 (m)

**From:** [McKiernan, Dan \(FWE\)](#)  
**To:** [Glenn, Robert \(FWE\)](#); [Burke, Erin \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Kaplan, Julia \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Commercial Lobster closures in State waters  
**Date:** Monday, December 14, 2020 1:16:11 PM

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**From:** Matthew Arguin <matthewarguin@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 14, 2020 12:47 PM  
**To:** McKiernan, Dan (FWE) <dan.mckiernan@mass.gov>  
**Subject:** Commercial Lobster closures in State waters

**CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

Hi Mr. McKiernan,

I was wondering what sort of data is available for right whale migration in the areas of state waters surrounding the southern end of the Elizabeth Islands, South of Martha's Vineyard and around No Mans Land island. I understand these waters are included in a potential closure for commercial lobstering that are about to be closed to. Having spent a lot of time south of the vineyard offshore, I know that I personally have never seen any right whale activity even out at the dump, coxes ledge..the fingers and so on. I frequently fish between Cuttyhunk/Martha's Vineyard and the shipping lanes to the south. I have seen frequently pods of dolphins, but never any right whales. While i am not a commercial fisherman myself, i am friendly with more than a handful of them, whos time on the water far outweigh my own. I don't know of one person in that group, who has seen a right whale in this area.

It seems that this area is just being lumped in with other areas that do have active right whale activity with no real benefit, however a terrible consequence of either putting commercial lobstermen and women on the south coast either out of business or forcing them to go further than necessary.

Is there data supporting right whales being in this location? or is the blanket closure just hte easiest way to do this with the least amount of effort?

With all the work the government has put on the lobstermen (whale safe gear, reduced verticle lines,breakaways, etc) in the off chance that a whale did wander into this area, i would expect the government to spend the time to properly assess if they are actually doing anything beneficial to the whale population with a closure, or if they are just doing what is easy.

I am hoping that this blanket closure will not happen...i am hoping that closures in known right whale habitat will be what is targeted by this possible closure and not something done with a blind stroke of a brush.

Matthew Arguin  
Mattapoisett, MA

**From:** [McKiernan, Dan \(FWE\)](#)  
**To:** [Kaplan, Julia \(FWE\)](#); [Silva, Jared \(FWE\)](#); [Glenn, Robert \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: proposed fixed gear closures in Mass waters  
**Date:** Monday, December 14, 2020 12:23:29 PM

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**From:** bob pink <bpinkjr52@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 14, 2020 12:15 PM  
**To:** McKiernan, Dan (FWE) <dan.mckiernan@mass.gov>  
**Subject:** proposed fixed gear closures in Mass waters

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mr McKiernan

It is my belief that the proposal to close 'all' Mass regulated waters to fixed gear fishing seasonally is arbitrary and unnecessary. Although I support all reasonable efforts to protect marine species, the inclusion of the area South of Buzzards Bay/Vineyard Sound/Nomans will have little to no positive impact on Right whale endangerment. I am not a commercial fisherman, but have spent over 40 years working these waters recreationally and have yet to see a Right in this area.

Our commercial fishing industry is in serious trouble, and yes some of that damage was self-inflicted. The commercial lobster fishery has proven to be sustainable and responsive to all of the mandated protection measures, but closing these areas for months at a time will prove a devastating blow to an already pressured industry.

Please consider a revision to the proposal that keeps areas open that are not known as Right whale habitat.

--

bob pink

**From:** [McKiernan, Dan \(FWE\)](#)  
**To:** [Kaplan, Julia \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Right Whales  
**Date:** Monday, December 14, 2020 1:00:14 PM

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-----Original Message-----

From: Howard Chezar <hmchezar@icloud.com>  
Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2020 1:13 PM  
To: McKiernan, Dan (FWE) <dan.mckiernan@mass.gov>  
Subject: Right Whales

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr McKiernan

I am writing to express my hope that you will help the declining Right Whale population by enacting stronger regulations to eliminate fishing lines which now entangle these majestic creatures.

There are so many hazards out there that man has created that endanger these animals that we cannot change but here is one that is in our power.

We owe it to them and to our shared environment to strengthen the laws which will eliminate rope lines. They are killing too many of our ocean animals.

I urge you to take strong action in the upcoming opportunity to eliminate this hazard.

Thank you  
Howard Chezar  
South Egremont MA

**From:** [McKiernan, Dan \(FWE\)](#)  
**To:** [Kaplan, Julia \(FWE\)](#); [Glenn, Robert \(FWE\)](#); [Burke, Erin \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: South coast fishing industry  
**Date:** Monday, December 14, 2020 2:23:53 PM

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-----Original Message-----

From: Paula Strand <[pmstrand@comcast.net](mailto:pmstrand@comcast.net)>  
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 2:23 PM  
To: McKiernan, Dan (FWE) <[dan.mckiernan@mass.gov](mailto:dan.mckiernan@mass.gov)>  
Subject: South coast fishing industry

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

This email is ask you to please consider the economic hardship the new regulations will have on the South coast fishing industry. The regulations are too harsh for these businesses to succeed. Thank you for your time. Happy Holidays. Paula Strand.

**From:** [McKiernan, Dan \(FWE\)](#)  
**To:** [Burke, Erin \(FWE\)](#); [Glenn, Robert \(FWE\)](#); [Kaplan, Julia \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: South Coast Lobster Business  
**Date:** Monday, December 14, 2020 1:16:56 PM

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**From:** Pam Sefrino <psefrino@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 14, 2020 12:47 PM  
**To:** McKiernan, Dan (FWE) <dan.mckiernan@mass.gov>  
**Subject:** South Coast Lobster Business

**CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

Dear Dan,

We are writing today to support local lobstermen here in the SouthCoast. These hard workers have already been significantly impacted by the pandemic in 2020 that has put their livelihoods, and that of their families at stake.

Apparently, there's a small area in our neck of the woods where the inshore lobsterman from the SouthCoast fish during the winter/spring months, that is about to be closed during this time of year to protect right whales.

According to a local lobsterman I know, who has somewhere in the ballpark of 2000 days and more than 20,000 hours over the last 20 years in local waters that have been mapped to be closed, they have never witnessed a right whale in those waters, ever, nor does he know others who have. They have also said they have met regulations and are well prepared should the rare sighting/appearance occur.

They have reduced vertical lines by trap reductions, have whale safe rope and breakaways that create a weak point on vertical lines. They have done what they can and have reduced whale entanglement to 0 in this area.

We ask that you reconsider closing these waters during this crucial time that these hard workers need to feed their families and literally, stay afloat.

Thank you and Merry Christmas.

Pam and Bryan Sefrino

**From:** [McKiernan, Dan \(FWE\)](#)  
**To:** [Kaplan, Julia \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Burke, Erin \(FWE\)](#); [Glenn, Robert \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: South Coast Lobster Fishing.  
**Date:** Monday, December 14, 2020 1:30:56 PM

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-----Original Message-----

From: karenvergoni@gmail.com <karenvergoni@gmail.com>  
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 1:20 PM  
To: McKiernan, Dan (FWE) <dan.mckiernan@mass.gov>  
Subject: South Coast Lobster Fishing.

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

dan.mckiernan@mass.gov

I support your conservation efforts, however, please take a moment to think about the economic impact on South Coast Lobster fisherman. These are hard times for these small businesses.

The south coast lobster business can't take this type of economic impact. There are no right whales in these water to save. A closure in this area won't save one whale but it will put people out of business.

Please reconsider implementing these regulations!

**From:** [McKiernan, Dan \(FWE\)](#)  
**To:** [Kaplan, Julia \(FWE\)](#); [Glenn, Robert \(FWE\)](#); [Burke, Erin \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: South coast lobsterman  
**Date:** Monday, December 14, 2020 1:18:40 PM

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-----Original Message-----

From: Joann <[joannlj@hotmail.com](mailto:joannlj@hotmail.com)>  
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 12:27 PM  
To: McKiernan, Dan (FWE) <[dan.mckiernan@mass.gov](mailto:dan.mckiernan@mass.gov)>  
Subject: South coast lobsterman

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

The closure in the area planned to protect whales at this time will be devastating to their business....  
Please consider this before taking action, because if the fisherman do ever see these whales they will be ready to not entangle them and fish responsibly.  
Please consider this before you close the area and put more Fisherman out of business...  
Thank you, Joann Gauthier Somerset Ma

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [lisadannolfolevey@gmail.com](mailto:lisadannolfolevey@gmail.com)  
**To:** [McKiernan, Dan \(FWE\)](#); [Burke, Erin \(FWE\)](#); [Creighton, Kevin \(FWE\)](#); [Pol, Mike \(FWE\)](#); [Nelson, Gary \(FWE\)](#); [Dean, Micah \(FWE\)](#); [Griffin, Melanie \(FWE\)](#); [Meserve, Nichola \(FWE\)](#); [Silva, Jared \(FWE\)](#); [Whitmore, Kelly \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please don't be complacent. Protect the right whales while we still can.  
**Date:** Monday, December 14, 2020 2:49:23 PM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear DMF Leaders, Scientists, Researchers:

I am reaching out to you as those who appear most closely connected to the proposed policy regulations with regard to protecting the right whale.

Several issues are clear:

- There remain a small number of right whales in North American waters.
- Current fishing equipment – in the form of vertical rope lines across Massachusetts waters - is a primary driver of right whale injury and death.
- There exists modern technological equipment (ropeless gear), used in other countries, including our Canadian neighbors to the north and U.S. fishermen (and women) on the west coast, for addressing the problem caused by lines that entangle the right whales.
- Whales are part of the allure and a boon to tourism in Massachusetts.

I ask, as a concerned citizen of Massachusetts, it is not your job as DMF leaders and professionals to play a frontline role in protecting our waters and the myriad sea life that depend on them? This problem of entanglement will NOT go away without a catalyst to employ alternatives to fishing lines that interfere with sea life mobility.

What a colossal tragedy it would be to witness the extinction of these majestic creatures when there are practical, effective alternatives. When you think of your children, nieces, nephews, perhaps grandchildren, how would you feel knowing they would no longer have the chance to see right whales in Massachusetts waters? How would you feel having them know that on your watch, you didn't do everything you could to ensure right whales did not become extinct?

Extinction is so final - no longer in existence, vanished from the earth, no going back.

I implore you not to be complacent by ensuring new proposed regulations include a pathway for allowing ropeless fishing gear.

I thank you for taking the time to read my email. I wish good health to you and all your loved ones.

Regards,

Lisa D'Annolfo Levey

440 Massachusetts Ave.

Lexington, MA 02420

**From:** [Don Ogden](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Monday, December 14, 2020 1:10:03 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Director Daniel McKiernan,

The North Atlantic Right Whale is one of the most critically endangered marine animals in the entire world. Entanglement in fishing gear and collisions with ships are pushing the species towards extinction. We must take strong action today before it's too late to save them.

These Endangered whales migrating through the waters of the East Coast must navigate a maze of deadly rope. Ropeless fishing gear can be the solution that we need to save right whales and keep fishermen on the water.

A viable pathway for permitting ropeless fishing gear should be included in the new proposed regulations in order to fully address the issue of entanglement. Removing vertical buoy rope from the water and providing a permitting structure for fishermen to legally utilize 21st century technology is the only long-term solution to reduce the entanglement risk to right whales while ensuring a sustainable future for Massachusetts fishing communities.

cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Deidre Nassar](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Monday, December 14, 2020 12:48:10 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Director Daniel McKiernan,

Massachusetts can be a leader in the fight to save the North Atlantic right whale.

With less than 400 individuals remaining, the North Atlantic right whale is one of the most critically endangered marine animals in the world. Entanglement in fishing gear and collisions with ships are pushing the species towards extinction. We must take strong action today before it's too late to save them.

North Atlantic right whales migrating through the waters of the East Coast must navigate a maze of deadly vertical rope. Ropeless fishing gear can be the solution that we need to save right whales and keep fishermen on the water.

A viable pathway for permitting ropeless fishing gear should be included in the new proposed regulations in order to fully address the issue of entanglement. Removing vertical buoy rope from the water and providing a permitting structure for fishermen to legally utilize 21st century technology is the only long-term solution to reduce the entanglement risk to right whales while ensuring a sustainable future for Massachusetts fishing communities.

cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Karen Moore](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Monday, December 14, 2020 12:28:49 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Director Daniel McKiernan,

Massachusetts can be a leader in the fight to save the North Atlantic right whale.

With less than 400 individuals remaining, the North Atlantic right whale is one of the most critically endangered marine animals in the world. Entanglement in fishing gear and collisions with ships are pushing the species towards extinction. We must take strong action today before it's too late to save them.

North Atlantic right whales migrating through the waters of the East Coast must navigate a maze of deadly vertical rope. Ropeless fishing gear can be the solution that we need to save right whales and keep fishermen on the water.

A viable pathway for permitting ropeless fishing gear should be included in the new proposed regulations in order to fully address the issue of entanglement. Removing vertical buoy rope from the water and providing a permitting structure for fishermen to legally utilize 21st century technology is the only long-term solution to reduce the entanglement risk to right whales while ensuring a sustainable future for Massachusetts fishing communities.

cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Al Maze](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Monday, December 14, 2020 12:17:03 PM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Director Daniel McKiernan,

Massachusetts can be a leader in the fight to save the North Atlantic right whale.

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Terry Karamanos](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Monday, December 14, 2020 10:48:02 AM

---

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Dear Director Daniel McKiernan,

Massachusetts can be a leader in the fight to save the North Atlantic right whale.

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Kristin Gray](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Monday, December 14, 2020 10:38:02 AM

---

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Dear Director Daniel McKiernan,

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Victoria Slowek](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Monday, December 14, 2020 10:34:59 AM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Lisa Ann](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Monday, December 14, 2020 10:30:05 AM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [deborah chase](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Monday, December 14, 2020 10:24:04 AM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Director Daniel McKiernan,

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Kristine Schroeder](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Monday, December 14, 2020 9:41:33 AM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Director Daniel McKiernan,

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [LINDA JONES](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Monday, December 14, 2020 9:20:02 AM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Megan Lepore](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Monday, December 14, 2020 2:52:03 PM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Director Daniel McKiernan,

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Clayton Randall](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** right whales  
**Date:** Monday, December 14, 2020 2:46:05 PM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Director McKiernan,

Right whales are endangered and nearly extinct in the northern Atlantic Ocean.

I hope that you will encourage the Department of Marine Fisheries to develop a plan for a full transition to ropeless technology in commercial trap fisheries as quickly and responsibly as possible. Removing vertical lines from the water is the only way to fully prevent entanglements and save this species. Thank you.

--

Clayton Randall  
222 Magill Dr.  
Grafton, MA 01519

**From:** [Susan Fernald](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 8:15:42 PM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Susan Fernald  
Hyannis, MA 02601

**From:** [Lloyd Williams](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** ENdangered RIght Whales  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 4:13:05 PM

---

**CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

Dear DMF,

It has been brought to my attention, as a citizen concerned about the mass extinction of species we are now witnessing at ever accelerating speed, that our planet's wonderful right whales are facing major challenges and assaults that diminish their numbers, decrease their reproductive rate, and endanger their survival. Of particular concern are fishing practices that result in wright whale deaths. Currently, there is a public push to encourage DMF to consider ropeless gear as a way to help save wright whales from extinction. Ropeless gear has a very high success rate at significantly reducing entanglement, injury and death for our right whale population. This is a concern of serious magnitude. It is hoped that DMF will recognize that human impact upon right whales and other precious marine life threatens their very survival. A world without whales would be an unimaginable tragedy. Please move decisively to protect them and insure their survival!

Sincerely,

Lloyd T. Williams  
119 Jackson Lane  
Barre, MA 01005

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [Eric Fournier](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 9:57:16 AM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Director McKiernan:

As a concerned Massachusetts resident, I fear the North Atlantic right whale may go extinct in my lifetime. North Atlantic right whales are dying due to human actions. The DoMF, alongside NOAA, has the opportunity to make the necessary changes to save this species. I am glad to see our commonwealth is taking necessary steps to ensure the protection and survival of right whales by proposing new regulations for commercial fixed gear fisheries and recreational lobster and crab trap fisheries. Some of the changes I support include:

- Expanded closures for trap fisheries in all of Massachusetts waters.
- A new closed season for the buoyed recreational lobster and crab trap fishery.
- The DoMF retaining the ability to extend these closures based on North Atlantic right whale sightings.
- A marking system that will differentiate the gear that may be lawfully used in Massachusetts from heavier gear that may be used in the offshore exclusive economic zone or Canada.

I strongly encourage the DoMF to develop a plan for a full transition to ropeless technology in commercial trap fisheries as quickly and responsibly as possible. Removing vertical lines from the water is the only way to fully prevent entanglements and save this species.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

Eric Fournier  
49 Parker St  
Watertown, MA 02472

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [Cindy Rancourt](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Monday, December 14, 2020 1:12:23 AM

---

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Dear Director McKiernan:

As a concerned Massachusetts resident, I fear the North Atlantic right whale may go extinct in my lifetime. North Atlantic right whales are dying due to human actions. The DoMF, alongside NOAA, has the opportunity to make the necessary changes to save this species. I am glad to see our commonwealth is taking necessary steps to ensure the protection and survival of right whales by proposing new regulations for commercial fixed gear fisheries and recreational lobster and crab trap fisheries. Some of the changes I support include:

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- A marking system that will differentiate the gear that may be lawfully used in Massachusetts from heavier gear that may be used in the offshore exclusive economic zone or Canada.

I strongly encourage the DoMF to develop a plan for a full transition to ropeless technology in commercial trap fisheries as quickly and responsibly as possible. Removing vertical lines from the water is the only way to fully prevent entanglements and save this species.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

Cindy Rancourt  
102 North Street  
Dalton, MA 01226

**From:** [Tracy Faulkner](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Monday, December 14, 2020 8:58:03 AM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Director Daniel McKiernan,

Massachusetts can be a leader in the fight to save the North Atlantic right whale.

With less than 400 individuals remaining, the North Atlantic right whale is one of the most critically endangered marine animals in the world. Entanglement in fishing gear and collisions with ships are pushing the species towards extinction. We must take strong action today before it's too late to save them.

North Atlantic right whales migrating through the waters of the East Coast must navigate a maze of deadly vertical rope. Ropeless fishing gear can be the solution that we need to save right whales and keep fishermen on the water.

A viable pathway for permitting ropeless fishing gear should be included in the new proposed regulations in order to fully address the issue of entanglement. Removing vertical buoy rope from the water and providing a permitting structure for fishermen to legally utilize 21st century technology is the only long-term solution to reduce the entanglement risk to right whales while ensuring a sustainable future for Massachusetts fishing communities.

cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Stephen Mahoney](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Monday, December 14, 2020 5:16:04 AM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Tina Michael](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Monday, December 14, 2020 4:06:50 AM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Patricia Connors](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Monday, December 14, 2020 12:26:47 AM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Ann Connolly](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Monday, December 14, 2020 12:22:03 AM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Catherine Kroeger](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 10:00:03 PM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Sharon Bauer](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 9:27:33 PM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Peter Kahigian](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 9:18:19 PM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Director Daniel McKiernan,

Massachusetts can be a leader in the fight to save the North Atlantic right whale.

With less than 400 individuals remaining, the North Atlantic right whale is one of the most critically endangered marine animals in the world. Entanglement in fishing gear and collisions with ships are pushing the species towards extinction. We must take strong action today before it's too late to save them.

North Atlantic right whales migrating through the waters of the East Coast must navigate a maze of deadly vertical rope. Ropeless fishing gear can be the solution that we need to save right whales and keep fishermen on the water.

A viable pathway for permitting ropeless fishing gear should be included in the new proposed regulations in order to fully address the issue of entanglement. Removing vertical buoy rope from the water and providing a permitting structure for fishermen to legally utilize 21st century technology is the only long-term solution to reduce the entanglement risk to right whales while ensuring a sustainable future for Massachusetts fishing communities.

cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Douglas Spring](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 8:08:49 PM

---

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Dear Director Daniel McKiernan,

Massachusetts can be a leader in the fight to save the North Atlantic right whale.

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Marilyn Conrad](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 8:08:49 PM

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [E3 Ander](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 8:06:03 PM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [So Allen](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 7:48:03 PM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Heather Bell](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 7:30:03 PM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Kathleen Bright Procopio](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 7:26:48 PM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [erin rowland](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 6:50:02 PM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Brenda Mueller-Lamore](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 6:44:48 PM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Michelle Collar](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 6:44:03 PM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Jeff Schwefel](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 6:16:02 PM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Chris Aldrich](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 6:10:02 PM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Theresa DeLuca](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 5:56:03 PM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [David Dragon](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 5:46:02 PM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Anne Wayne](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 5:44:02 PM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Joyce Barringer](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 5:42:02 PM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [STEPHEN DONNELLY](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 5:40:14 PM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Sunetra Banerjee](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 5:36:03 PM

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Carolyn Villanova](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 5:24:03 PM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Arlene Bonneau](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 5:14:47 PM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Joan McGrath](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 5:02:04 PM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Ellen Miller](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 4:56:48 PM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Elana Katz rose](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 4:34:02 PM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Michelle Malaspino](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 4:16:48 PM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Director Daniel McKiernan,

Massachusetts can be a leader in the fight to save the North Atlantic right whale.

With less than 400 individuals remaining, the North Atlantic right whale is one of the most critically endangered marine animals in the world. Entanglement in fishing gear and collisions with ships are pushing the species towards extinction. We must take strong action today before it's too late to save them.

North Atlantic right whales migrating through the waters of the East Coast must navigate a maze of deadly vertical rope. Ropeless fishing gear can be the solution that we need to save right whales and keep fishermen on the water.

A viable pathway for permitting ropeless fishing gear should be included in the new proposed regulations in order to fully address the issue of entanglement. Removing vertical buoy rope from the water and providing a permitting structure for fishermen to legally utilize 21st century technology is the only long-term solution to reduce the entanglement risk to right whales while ensuring a sustainable future for Massachusetts fishing communities.

cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Barbara Arnold](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 3:58:51 PM

---

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Dear Director Daniel McKiernan,

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Laurie Conlon](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 3:52:06 PM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Irene Foley](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 3:44:02 PM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [cathy.staniunas](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 3:40:02 PM

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Rebecca Pink](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 3:38:03 PM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Margit Suess](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 3:36:03 PM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Louise Quigley](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 3:22:48 PM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Carleen Duquette](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 3:16:02 PM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Fanny Whitman](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 3:14:02 PM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Carol Herzog](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 3:08:03 PM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Nancy Mulrey](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 2:56:02 PM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Brian Merrick](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 2:55:33 PM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Brenda Agnew](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 2:52:02 PM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Peter Ajemian](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 2:50:03 PM

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Jordan Longever](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 2:40:02 PM

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Francine Traniello](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 2:34:06 PM

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Jennifer Santos](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 2:14:02 PM

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Susan Reichter](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 2:08:03 PM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Kate Nelligan](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 2:08:03 PM

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Lynn Bengston](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 1:52:02 PM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Kristin Palmer](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 1:44:03 PM

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Aaron Beer](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 1:40:47 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Director Daniel McKiernan,

Massachusetts can be a leader in the fight to save the North Atlantic right whale.

With less than 400 individuals remaining, the North Atlantic right whale is one of the most critically endangered marine animals in the world. Entanglement in fishing gear and collisions with ships are pushing the species towards extinction. We must take strong action today before it's too late to save them.

North Atlantic right whales migrating through the waters of the East Coast must navigate a maze of deadly vertical rope. Ropeless fishing gear can be the solution that we need to save right whales and keep fishermen on the water.

A viable pathway for permitting ropeless fishing gear should be included in the new proposed regulations in order to fully address the issue of entanglement. Removing vertical buoy rope from the water and providing a permitting structure for fishermen to legally utilize 21st century technology is the only long-term solution to reduce the entanglement risk to right whales while ensuring a sustainable future for Massachusetts fishing communities.

cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Deborah Reiter](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 1:38:06 PM

---

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Dear Director Daniel McKiernan,

Massachusetts can be a leader in the fight to save the North Atlantic right whale.

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Cathy Condron](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 1:36:02 PM

---

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Dear Director Daniel McKiernan,

Massachusetts can be a leader in the fight to save the North Atlantic right whale.

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Barbara Bradley](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 1:33:42 PM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Director Daniel McKiernan,

Massachusetts can be a leader in the fight to save the North Atlantic right whale.

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Dez DeCarlo](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 1:28:02 PM

---

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Dear Director Daniel McKiernan,

Massachusetts can be a leader in the fight to save the North Atlantic right whale.

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [sherry weiland](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 1:14:01 PM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [J. Mcswain](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 1:10:02 PM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Director Daniel McKiernan,

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Sarah McKee](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 1:06:15 PM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Director Daniel McKiernan,

Massachusetts can be a leader in the fight to save the North Atlantic right whale.

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Howard Chezar](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 1:04:02 PM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Director Daniel McKiernan,

Massachusetts can be a leader in the fight to save the North Atlantic right whale.

With less than 400 individuals remaining, the North Atlantic right whale is one of the most critically endangered marine animals in the world. Entanglement in fishing gear and collisions with ships are pushing the species towards extinction. We must take strong action today before it's too late to save them.

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A viable pathway for permitting ropeless fishing gear should be included in the new proposed regulations in order to fully address the issue of entanglement. Removing vertical buoy rope from the water and providing a permitting structure for fishermen to legally utilize 21st century technology is the only long-term solution to reduce the entanglement risk to right whales while ensuring a sustainable future for Massachusetts fishing communities.

The plight of these majestic creatures is in our hands and we cannot let this opportunity pass without doing what's in their best interest.

Please permit ropeless fishing in order to eliminate this deadly hazard to these animals survival.

Thank you.

cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Elana Katz rose](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 1:00:02 PM

---

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Dear Director Daniel McKiernan,

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [John Berkland](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 12:56:48 PM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Director Daniel McKiernan,

Massachusetts can be a leader in the fight to save the North Atlantic right whale.

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Wayne Sanborn](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 12:50:03 PM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Director Daniel McKiernan,

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Karen Martin](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 12:42:02 PM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Director Daniel McKiernan,

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Mary Gershanoff](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 12:33:32 PM

---

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Dear Director Daniel McKiernan,

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Karen Defrancesco](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 12:32:03 PM

---

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Dear Director Daniel McKiernan,

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Kathleen Walsh](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 12:30:02 PM

---

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Dear Director Daniel McKiernan,

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Samantha Daniel-Banks](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 12:18:02 PM

---

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Dear Director Daniel McKiernan,

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Georgia Arbo](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 12:16:48 PM

---

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Dear Director Daniel McKiernan,

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Jane Tomaselli](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 12:02:02 PM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Richard and Julia Robitaille](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 12:00:03 PM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Julia Cumes](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 11:56:02 AM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Linda Knowles](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 11:56:02 AM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Niles & Michele Busler](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 11:54:48 AM

---

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Massachusetts can be a leader in the fight to save the North Atlantic right whale.

With less than 400 individuals remaining, the North Atlantic right whale is one of the most critically endangered marine animals in the world. Entanglement in fishing gear and collisions with ships are pushing the species towards extinction. We must take strong action today before it's too late to save them.

North Atlantic right whales migrating through the waters of the East Coast must navigate a maze of deadly vertical rope. Ropeless fishing gear can be the solution that we need to save right whales and keep fishermen on the water.

A viable pathway for permitting ropeless fishing gear should be included in the new proposed regulations in order to fully address the issue of entanglement. Removing vertical buoy rope from the water and providing a permitting structure for fishermen to legally utilize 21st century technology is the only long-term solution to reduce the entanglement risk to right whales while ensuring a sustainable future for Massachusetts fishing communities.

cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [sheila fetterhoff](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 11:50:03 AM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Director Daniel McKiernan,

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Susan Mackle](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 11:40:02 AM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Peggy Herlihy](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 11:24:47 AM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Michael Stuart](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 11:20:02 AM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Christine Piekarski](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 11:20:02 AM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Niles Busler](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 11:18:02 AM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Elizabeth Newton](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 11:12:04 AM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Lauren Sheytanian](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 11:10:02 AM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Carol Berkeley](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 11:08:03 AM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Claire Goldthwaite](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 11:08:02 AM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Katherine Levin](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 11:02:02 AM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Elaine Arthur](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 10:56:04 AM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Kristine Soly](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 10:55:02 AM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Robert Murphy](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 10:48:02 AM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Frances Burke](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 10:46:02 AM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Kit Lilly](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 10:44:02 AM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Sue Hassett](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 10:40:02 AM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Judy Desreuisseau](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 10:38:47 AM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Amy Henry](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 10:38:07 AM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Alison Bickford](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 10:34:02 AM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Christine King](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 10:34:02 AM

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [David Miller](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 10:34:02 AM

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251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Monica Alcantara](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 10:34:01 AM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Director Daniel McKiernan,

Massachusetts can be a leader in the fight to save the North Atlantic right whale.

With less than 400 individuals remaining, the North Atlantic right whale is one of the most critically endangered marine animals in the world. Entanglement in fishing gear and collisions with ships are pushing the species towards extinction. We must take strong action today before it's too late to save them.

North Atlantic right whales migrating through the waters of the East Coast must navigate a maze of deadly vertical rope. Ropeless fishing gear can be the solution that we need to save right whales and keep fishermen on the water.

A viable pathway for permitting ropeless fishing gear should be included in the new proposed regulations in order to fully address the issue of entanglement. Removing vertical buoy rope from the water and providing a permitting structure for fishermen to legally utilize 21st century technology is the only long-term solution to reduce the entanglement risk to right whales while ensuring a sustainable future for Massachusetts fishing communities.

cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Lena Fransioli](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 10:32:06 AM

---

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Dear Director Daniel McKiernan,

Massachusetts can be a leader in the fight to save the North Atlantic right whale.

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [arlene butters](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 10:32:05 AM

---

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Dear Director Daniel McKiernan,

Massachusetts can be a leader in the fight to save the North Atlantic right whale.

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [B Coniglio](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 10:32:05 AM

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Ally Matteodo](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 10:30:03 AM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Dave Stauber](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 10:24:07 AM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Helene Bank](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 10:22:12 AM

---

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Dear Director Daniel McKiernan,

Massachusetts can be a leader in the fight to save the North Atlantic right whale.

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Peter Townsend](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 10:22:12 AM

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Lozz Starseed](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 10:22:11 AM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Carole Smudin](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 10:10:02 AM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Marjorie Smith](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 10:10:02 AM

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Clare Goslant](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 10:06:03 AM

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Carol Goslant](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 10:06:02 AM

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Maressa B](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 10:04:07 AM

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Lisa Remington](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 10:02:02 AM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [LJ Orszulak](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 10:02:01 AM

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Cheryl Rigby](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 10:02:01 AM

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Thank you for your consideration and for accepting my comments.

cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [S Joyce](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 9:58:02 AM

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Nita Sembrowich](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 9:58:01 AM

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Dear Director Daniel McKiernan,

Massachusetts can and should be a leader in the fight to save the North Atlantic right whale.

With less than 400 individuals remaining, the North Atlantic right whale is one of the most critically endangered marine animals in the world. We must take strong action today before collisions with ships and entanglements in fishing gear drive them into extinction.

Fishing is vitally important to the culture and economy of our state and to the livelihoods of many residents. Right whales are beloved, iconic denizens of our waters and of historic importance to the New England economy. But apart from any value to humans, whales deserve to be here as much as we do.

North Atlantic right whales migrating through the waters of the East Coast must navigate a maze of deadly vertical rope. Ropeless fishing gear can save right whales and keep fishermen on the water.

A viable pathway for permitting ropeless fishing gear should be included in the new proposed regulations in order to fully address the issue of entanglement. Removing vertical buoy rope from the water and providing a permitting structure for fishermen to legally utilize 21st century technology is the only long-term solution to reduce the entanglement risk to right whales while ensuring a sustainable future for Massachusetts fishing communities.

Please do what is best both for whales while also considering the needs of Massachusetts fishermen. The proposed draft protections for right whales do not do enough to ensure whales' safety. Thank you.

cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Lara Miletta](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 9:56:47 AM

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Deirdre Morris](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 9:56:47 AM

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Lindsay Keith](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 9:52:02 AM

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Jacob Pendlebury](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 9:52:02 AM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Director Daniel McKiernan,

Massachusetts can be a leader in the fight to save the North Atlantic right whale.

With less than 400 individuals remaining, the North Atlantic right whale is one of the most critically endangered marine animals in the world. Entanglement in fishing gear and collisions with ships are pushing the species towards extinction. We must take strong action today before it's too late to save them.

North Atlantic right whales migrating through the waters of the East Coast must navigate a maze of deadly vertical rope. Ropeless fishing gear can be the solution that we need to save right whales and keep fishermen on the water.

A viable pathway for permitting ropeless fishing gear should be included in the new proposed regulations in order to fully address the issue of entanglement. Removing vertical buoy rope from the water and providing a permitting structure for fishermen to legally utilize 21st century technology is the only long-term solution to reduce the entanglement risk to right whales while ensuring a sustainable future for Massachusetts fishing communities.

cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Jennifer Andrews](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 9:52:02 AM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Beth Alvernaz](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 9:52:02 AM

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Nancy Hooper](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 9:52:02 AM

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Peggy Patti](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 9:52:02 AM

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Karen Vayda](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 9:50:02 AM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Jane Lanzoni](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 9:48:48 AM

---

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Dear Director Daniel McKiernan,

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Carol Guertin](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 9:48:47 AM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [James Hutchison](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 9:48:19 AM

---

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Dear Director Daniel McKiernan,

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Shelagh Dean](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 9:40:48 AM

---

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Dear Director Daniel McKiernan,

Massachusetts can be a leader in the fight to save the North Atlantic right whale.

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Lynn Hamilton](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 9:40:48 AM

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With less than 400 individuals remaining, the North Atlantic right whale is one of the most critically endangered marine animals in the world. Entanglement in fishing gear and collisions with ships are pushing the species towards extinction. We must take strong action today before it's too late so sad so wrong to let them go so cruel we need to do something to save them.

North Atlantic right whales migrating through the waters of the East Coast must navigate a maze of deadly vertical rope. Ropeless fishing gear can be the solution that we need to save right whales and keep fishermen on the water.

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Diane Zirakian](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 9:32:02 AM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Thomas McConnell](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 9:30:03 AM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Cameron S.](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 9:28:19 AM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Patty Walsh](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 9:28:19 AM

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Diane Pirro](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 9:28:02 AM

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Anita Dranetz](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 9:28:02 AM

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Victoria Cantrell](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 9:26:02 AM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Dennis Rogers](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 9:26:02 AM

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Eugene Brusin](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 9:24:02 AM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Victoria Martin](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 9:24:02 AM

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Jennifer Sullivan](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 9:20:48 AM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Stephanie Reeve](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 9:18:02 AM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Rachael Carlucci](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 9:18:02 AM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Director Daniel McKiernan,

Massachusetts can be a leader in the fight to save the North Atlantic right whale.

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Heloise Seailles](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 9:18:02 AM

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Arlene Strauss](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 9:16:02 AM

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Margaret Curtin](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 9:14:02 AM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Deborah Sanders](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 9:14:02 AM

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Barbara Cummings](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 9:10:02 AM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Peter Dorfman](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 9:08:02 AM

---

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Dear Director Daniel McKiernan,

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Mary Vitro](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 9:08:02 AM

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Gerald Beetham](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 9:08:02 AM

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I urge the Commonwealth to fund subsidies to lobstermen for them to transition to ropeless gear. This gear is expensive and until the costs come down, lobstermen are reluctant to try it. The North Atlantic Right Whales do not have any more time.

cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Patricia Brodie](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 9:06:02 AM

---

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Dear Director Daniel McKiernan,

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Kristine Kennedy](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 9:06:02 AM

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Shelley Hartz](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 9:06:02 AM

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Joey Johnson](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 9:05:18 AM

---

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Dear Director Daniel McKiernan,

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251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Katherine Slocum](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 9:05:18 AM

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Kay Clement](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 9:04:04 AM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Ilda Johnston](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 9:04:03 AM

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Louisa Reppucci](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 9:04:03 AM

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Nancy Prendergast](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Monday, December 14, 2020 9:14:03 AM

---

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cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [John White](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Protecting Right Whales  
**Date:** Friday, December 11, 2020 9:34:12 PM

---

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It seems to me that the DMF has not given proper consideration to alternative fishing methods, including ropeless gear, that would dramatically decrease the danger to right whales. Way too many of these endangered mammals are being unnecessarily injured and killed by the vertical lines currently used. I believe that the protection of this species should be a top priority for DMF and should be treated as such.

Thank you,  
John White  
Worcester, MA  
508-853-6327

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [paul mullen](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Right wale lilitigation  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 4:35:20 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Att: Dan McKiernan, I am writing a letter to you in regards to the litigation on the right wales. As a delegate of the Mass Lobstermens Assoc. I am well aware of the pending litigation against the state. I realize you must come up with something to satisfy the judge. Most of your proposals I already use. 600lb breakaway bouy ends 3/8" line, experimental 1700 lb breaking strength endline. I have had some issues with it (unravels,,longevity ?) But it is usable. My biggest issue is with the state closure. I feel as though we have done as much as we possibly can to stop entanglements on our part. If you ultimately decide on a state closure I would like to see some sort of separation for fishermen outside of the Mass Bay restricted area. It is not fair to fishermen north and south of that area to be stopped from setting gear after May 1 if no whales are present in our areas. Sincerely, Paul J Mullen PS I feel as though whatever you decide it will never be enough, litigation will keep coming.

**From:** [Ted Box](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Right Whales  
**Date:** Friday, December 11, 2020 7:45:23 PM

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The moment where we lose a species we all cherish has come. Generations will measure us by our actions when we had the technology to save these magnificent creatures but not the will. These creatures have swim the ocean since the dawn of time. We are the only thing between them and silence. I appeal to you to be the voice for sentient creatures who cannot speak, yet tug at our sense of duty to protect.

Ropeless traps work. They save whales lives. We know this to be true. Find a way to enact this legislation while helping the fishermen to afford this burden. They shouldn't have to carry the expense of the transition.

Ted Box

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Laura Gill](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Right Whales  
**Date:** Friday, December 11, 2020 10:34:32 PM

---

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C'mon, must we lose another beloved species to man's laziness and greed? Ropeless gear is a must. Please add my name to the masses of citizens who will support what it takes to preserve these majestic beings.

Thank you

Laura Gill  
Brewster, MA

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Richard Norris MD](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Right whales  
**Date:** Friday, December 11, 2020 6:17:05 PM

---

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice.

I am asking that you do everything possible to  
Stop this barbaric treatment of these magnificent creatures.  
Richard Norris, MD

**From:** [janutee](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Ropeless Gear  
**Date:** Friday, December 11, 2020 4:53:32 PM

---

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Please consider supporting ropeless gear which is shown to be highly effective in protecting right whales. This species has suffered so much and needs our protection to save it from extinction.

Thank you,  
Janet Bargar  
Quincy MA

Sent from my Galaxy

**From:** [eikenyon11@comcast.net](mailto:eikenyon11@comcast.net)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save Our Precious Right Whales  
**Date:** Friday, December 11, 2020 6:37:08 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing you today to express my deep concern for Right Whales. There are only about 300 still living and rope entanglements represent the greatest threat to causing their extinction. We humans have already caused the extinction of thousands of species in the last 50 years. We must start acting more responsibly or we shall wreak havoc with our environment and our earth.

Sent from Xfinity Connect Application

**From:** [George White](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save Right Whales  
**Date:** Friday, December 11, 2020 7:59:05 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sir, Madam,

Count me in on supporting the elimination of ropes and any old fishing technology that is causing damage to and death to right whales and other marine life.

Thank you very much.

George White  
Cambridge, MA 02138

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Sherri Tessitore](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 11:40:51 AM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Sherri Tessitore  
Orange, CT 06477

**From:** [Peter Kahigian](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 11:38:22 AM

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Thank you.

Peter Kahigian  
Haverhill, MA 01831

**From:** [Peter Kahigian](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 11:34:42 AM

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Thank you.

Peter Kahigian  
Haverhill, MA 01832

**From:** [Stephanie Bourdelle](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 11:29:38 AM

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Thank you.

Stephanie Bourdelle  
Sheffield, VT 05866

**From:** [MaryRose O'Grady](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 11:24:04 AM

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Thank you.

MaryRose O'Grady  
Enfield, CT 06082

**From:** [Scott Barnard](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 11:20:24 AM

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Scott Barnard  
Enfield, CT 06082

**From:** [Lj Orszulak](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 13, 2020 11:17:54 AM

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Thank you.

Lj Orszulak  
Chicopee, MA 01020

**From:** [Stanley Warner](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 9:42:38 PM

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Thank you.

Stanley Warner  
Middletown, CT 06457

**From:** [Wayne Cohen](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 9:40:09 PM

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Thank you.

Wayne Cohen  
Plainville, MA 02762

**From:** [Matthew Goldstein](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 9:12:41 PM

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Thank you.

Matthew Goldstein  
Cambridge, MA 02140

**From:** [Alisa Jonas](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 9:09:09 PM

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Thank you.

Alisa Jonas  
Chestnut Hill, MA 02467

**From:** [Lorri Devlin](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 9:06:41 PM

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Thank you.

Lorri Devlin  
Cotuit, MA 02635

**From:** [Lauren Milgroom](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 9:02:42 PM

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Thank you.

Lauren Milgroom  
Somerville, MA 02144

**From:** [Joyce MacPherson](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 9:00:17 PM

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Thank you.

Joyce MacPherson  
Canton, MA 02021

**From:** [Patrick Brown](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 8:54:51 PM

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Thank you.

Patrick Brown  
Cambridge, MA 02139

**From:** [Molly Alamsetti](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 8:52:07 PM

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Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

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Molly Alamsetti  
Bedford, MA 01730

**From:** [Richard Fisher](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 8:49:38 PM

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Thank you.

Richard Fisher  
Little Compton, RI 02837

**From:** [Abigail Tapper](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 8:45:29 PM

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Thank you.

Abigail Tapper  
Waltham, MA 02452

**From:** [Melinda Collins](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 8:41:11 PM

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Thank you.

Melinda Collins  
Marlborough, MA 01752

**From:** [Joseph Mullin](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 8:36:39 PM

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Joseph Mullin  
Boston, MA 02118

**From:** [RichettaíS Migliozi](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 8:33:13 PM

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Thank you.

RichettaíS Migliozi  
Gloucester, MA 01930

**From:** [Dannette Costas-Carrion](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 8:30:43 PM

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Dannette Costas-Carrion  
Houston, TX 77069

**From:** [Scarlet Johnson](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 8:24:44 PM

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Scarlet Johnson  
West Tisbury, MA 02575

**From:** [Deborah Armstrong](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 8:21:41 PM

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Deborah Armstrong  
Lexington, MA 02420

**From:** [Anne Curtis](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 8:18:12 PM

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Anne Curtis  
Belmont, MA 02478

**From:** [Nina Foley](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 8:13:12 PM

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Nina Foley  
Northampton, MA 01060

**From:** [David Cash](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 8:11:10 PM

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David Cash  
Boston, MA 02118

**From:** [Lozz Starseed](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 8:05:54 PM

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Lozz Starseed  
Lexington, MA 02420

**From:** [Valorie Ricci](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 8:02:42 PM

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Valorie Ricci  
Hopewell Junction, NY 12533

**From:** [Lori Fogg](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 7:58:18 PM

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Lori Fogg  
Attleboro, MA 02703

**From:** [Francine Traniello](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 7:55:47 PM

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Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Francine Traniello  
Middleboro, MA 02346

**From:** [Francine Traniello](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 7:52:03 PM

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Middleboro, MA 02346

**From:** [Heather Breau](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 7:46:36 PM

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Thank you.

Heather Breau  
Wakefield, RI 02879

**From:** [Kimberly Bernard](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 7:41:59 PM

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Thank you.

Kimberly Bernard  
North Andover, MA 01845

**From:** [Katrin Winterer](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 7:38:59 PM

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Katrin Winterer  
Winchester, MA 01890

**From:** [Priscilla Shade](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 7:36:29 PM

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Priscilla Shade  
Boston, MA 02114

**From:** [Alex Weiland](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 7:33:35 PM

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Alex Weiland  
Hudson, MA 01749

**From:** [Timothy McLaughlin](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 7:31:18 PM

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Timothy McLaughlin  
Plymouth, MA 02360

**From:** [Mary-Sarah O'Hanlon](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 7:27:31 PM

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Mary-Sarah O'Hanlon  
Ashby, MA 01431

**From:** [Nancy Woolley](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 7:24:23 PM

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Nancy Woolley  
Stoughton, MA 02072

**From:** [Irene Foley](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 7:21:55 PM

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Irene Foley  
Roslindale, MA 02131

**From:** [Sandra Dunn](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 7:18:02 PM

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Sandra Dunn  
Torrington, CT 06790

**From:** [Wilmary Labonte](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 7:15:41 PM

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Wilmary Labonte  
Chicopee, MA 01013

**From:** [Barbara Kamholz](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 7:12:05 PM

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Barbara Kamholz  
Brookline, MA 02445

**From:** [Susan Mackle](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 7:06:21 PM

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Susan Mackle  
Great Barrington, MA 01230

**From:** [Richard Payne](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 7:03:53 PM

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Thank you.

Richard Payne  
Falmouth, MA 02540

**From:** [Elizabeth Coates](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 4:00:09 PM

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Elizabeth Coates  
Sharon, MA 02067

**From:** [Stephanie Wonderly](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 3:57:03 PM

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Thank you.

Stephanie Wonderly  
Wayland, MA 01778

**From:** [chris kelly](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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Thank you.

chris kelly  
West Roxbury, MA 02132

**From:** [Ashley Kelly](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 3:51:32 PM

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Thank you.

Ashley Kelly  
Franklin, MA 02038

**From:** [Lokesh Bindal](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 3:49:00 PM

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Thank you.

Lokesh Bindal  
Lowell, MA 01851

**From:** [Cindy Jacobsen](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 3:43:19 PM

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Thank you.

Cindy Jacobsen  
Woburn, MA 01801

**From:** [Daniel Neske](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 3:40:52 PM

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Daniel Neske  
West Yarmouth, MA 02673

**From:** [Rachel Gawell](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 3:38:09 PM

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Rachel Gawell  
Astoria, NY 11103

**From:** [Lily Newman](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 3:35:28 PM

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Lily Newman  
South Hadley, MA 01075

**From:** [Allison Argo](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 3:32:57 PM

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Allison Argo  
Brewster, MA 02631

**From:** [Cami Hennekens](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 3:29:21 PM

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Cami Hennekens  
Beverly, MA 01915

**From:** [Gordon Casey](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 3:23:52 PM

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Gordon Casey  
Woburn, MA 01801

**From:** [ronda sigel](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 3:21:05 PM

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ronda sigel  
Brewster, MA 02631

**From:** [Maire Gorman](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 3:15:11 PM

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Maire Gorman  
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

**From:** [Anne Walker](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 3:12:41 PM

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Thank you.

Anne Walker  
Newton, MA 02462

**From:** [Marielle Vena](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 3:08:49 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Marielle Vena  
Burlington, MA 01803

**From:** [Theodore Box](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 3:04:31 PM

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Theodore Box  
Vineyard Haven, MA 02568

**From:** [Theodore Box](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 3:00:27 PM

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Theodore Box  
Vineyard Haven, MA 02568

**From:** [Leslie Naditch](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 2:58:05 PM

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Thank you.

Leslie Naditch  
Southborough, MA 01772

**From:** [Andrea Zeren](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 2:55:34 PM

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Thank you.

Andrea Zeren  
Marblehead, MA 01945

**From:** [Sara Stanwppd](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 2:51:49 PM

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Thank you.

Sara Stanwppd  
Tyngsboro, MA 01879

**From:** [Amy SHROFF](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 2:46:54 PM

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Amy SHROFF  
Wayland, MA 01778

**From:** [Eileen Anglin](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 2:42:15 PM

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Eileen Anglin  
Barnegat, NJ 08005

**From:** [Priya Chan](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 2:38:29 PM

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Priya Chan  
Lowell, MA 01854

**From:** [Dana Lepler](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 2:36:00 PM

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Dana Lepler  
Arlington, MA 02476

**From:** [Lisa And David Eisenbud](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 2:30:01 PM

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Lisa And David Eisenbud  
Boston, MA 02130

**From:** [Joanna Stevens](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 2:27:44 PM

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Joanna Stevens  
Eastham, MA 02642

**From:** [Michelle Olson](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 2:25:44 PM

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Michelle Olson  
Harwich, MA 02645

**From:** [Julie Kahn](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 2:19:49 PM

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Julie Kahn  
, 024721794

**From:** [melissa alves](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 2:17:19 PM

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melissa alves  
, 02631-5205

**From:** [Madeline Colón-Usowicz](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 2:12:27 PM

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Thank you.

Madeline Colón-Usowicz  
Webster, MA 01570

**From:** [Ushs Haley](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 2:06:36 PM

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Ushs Haley  
Deep River, CT 06417

**From:** [Shevon Almeida-Ramos](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 2:02:06 PM

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Thank you.

Shevon Almeida-Ramos  
South Dartmouth, MA 02748

**From:** [Lauren Jones](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 1:59:37 PM

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Thank you.

Lauren Jones  
New York, NY 10008

**From:** [Carole Smudin](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 1:57:07 PM

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Carole Smudin  
Bridgewater, MA 02324

**From:** [Dennis Rogers](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 1:52:12 PM

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Thank you.

Dennis Rogers  
Hubbardston, MA 01452

**From:** [Rosemary Bernier](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 1:47:07 PM

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Thank you.

Rosemary Bernier  
Norfolk, MA 02056

**From:** [Melissa Grondin](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 1:42:02 PM

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Thank you.

Melissa Grondin  
, 02148-2911

**From:** [Donna Dione](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 1:39:59 PM

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Donna Dione  
Deep River, CT 06417

**From:** [John Larochelle Larochelle](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 1:37:30 PM

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John Larochelle Larochelle  
Pittsfield, MA 01201

**From:** [kristin mortimer](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 1:31:47 PM

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kristin mortimer  
Cambridge, MA 02138

**From:** [Carol Guertin](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 1:25:48 PM

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Carol Guertin  
Gardner, MA 01440

**From:** [Angela Coffey](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 1:22:07 PM

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Angela Coffey  
Tarrytown, NY 10591

**From:** [Arlene Butters](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 1:19:13 PM

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Arlene Butters  
Arlington, MA 02476

**From:** [Diane Zirakian](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 1:16:42 PM

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Diane Zirakian  
Andover, MA 01810

**From:** [Karen Vayda](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 1:11:18 PM

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Thank you.

Karen Vayda  
Southampton, MA 01073

**From:** [Don Thompson](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 1:08:16 PM

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Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

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Thank you.

Don Thompson  
Cambridge, MA 02139

**From:** [Nicole Monforti](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 1:05:36 PM

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Nicole Monforti  
Harrison, NY 10528

**From:** [Andrea Ferguson](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 1:00:35 PM

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Andrea Ferguson  
Granby, MA 01033

**From:** [Joan McGrath](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 1:00:12 PM

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Joan McGrath  
Franklin, MA 02038

**From:** [Glenna Waterman](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 12:52:01 PM

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Glenna Waterman  
Brookline, MA 02445

**From:** [Beth Alvernaz](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 12:46:30 PM

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Thank you.

Beth Alvernaz  
Fairhaven, MA 02719

**From:** [Richard and Kim Rendigs](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 12:44:15 PM

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Richard and Kim Rendigs  
Falmouth, MA 02540

**From:** [Beth Alvernaz](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 12:41:45 PM

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Beth Alvernaz  
Fairhaven, MA 02719

**From:** [Paula Mahoney](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 12:39:32 PM

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Paula Mahoney  
Billerica, MA 01821

**From:** [Kevin Worker](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 12:33:38 PM

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Kevin Worker  
Amesbury, MA 01913

**From:** [Alison Collins](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 12:28:15 PM

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Alison Collins  
South Egremont, MA 01258

**From:** [Alex Weiland](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 12:24:43 PM

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Alex Weiland  
Hudson, MA 01749

**From:** [Elana Katz rose](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2020 12:22:12 PM

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Elana Katz rose  
Sharon, MA 02067

**From:** [Alex Johnson](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 11, 2020 4:24:55 PM

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Alex Johnson  
West Tisbury, MA 02575

**From:** [Ann Wolf](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 11, 2020 4:21:15 PM

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Ann Wolf  
Arlington, MA 02474

**From:** [Toni Johnson](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 11, 2020 4:18:45 PM

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Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Toni Johnson  
Bozrah, CT 06334

**From:** [Julia Knowles](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 11, 2020 4:12:58 PM

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Thank you.

Julia Knowles  
Boylston, MA 01505

**From:** [Joshua Davis](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 11, 2020 4:10:47 PM

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Joshua Davis  
Preston, CT 06365

**From:** [Jennifer Rock](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 11, 2020 4:08:28 PM

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Jennifer Rock  
Wyoming, RI 02898

**From:** [Kevin Paolucci](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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Kevin Paolucci  
Provincetown, MA 02657

**From:** [colleen ford](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 11, 2020 4:03:17 PM

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colleen ford  
Westwood, MA 02090

**From:** [Amy DelMonaco](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 11, 2020 3:58:21 PM

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Amy DelMonaco  
Mystic, CT 06355

**From:** [Benjamin Keehn](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 11, 2020 3:53:54 PM

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Benjamin Keehn  
La Puente, CA 91746

**From:** [Deirdre McKenna](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 11, 2020 3:50:48 PM

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Deirdre McKenna  
Pittsfield, MA 01201

**From:** [Nancy Opp](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 11, 2020 3:44:54 PM

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Nancy Opp  
Hudson, MA 01749

**From:** [Keith Thurlow](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 11, 2020 3:42:23 PM

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Keith Thurlow  
Truro, MA 02666

**From:** [Gay Hayden](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 11, 2020 3:37:20 PM

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Gay Hayden  
Scituate, MA 02066

**From:** [Jennifer Long](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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Jennifer Long  
West Newton, MA 02465

Daniel McKiernan  
Director  
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA 02114  
[marine.fish@mass.gov](mailto:marine.fish@mass.gov)

December 11, 2020

Dear Director McKiernan:

I submit the following comments on behalf of Whale and Dolphin Conservation (WDC) regarding proposed amendments to Division of Marine Fisheries regulations at 322 CMR 6.00, 7.00, and 12.00 designed to reduce risk of entangling, injuring, or killing critically endangered North Atlantic right whales.

I am a long serving member of the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team and applaud the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries for its consistent efforts in protecting both North Atlantic right whales and its fisheries. WDC is supportive of the measures proposed but requests clarification on the implementation dates for these measures, as only one proposed measure provides a specific date by which it would be enacted. More specific comments on each proposal are offered below.

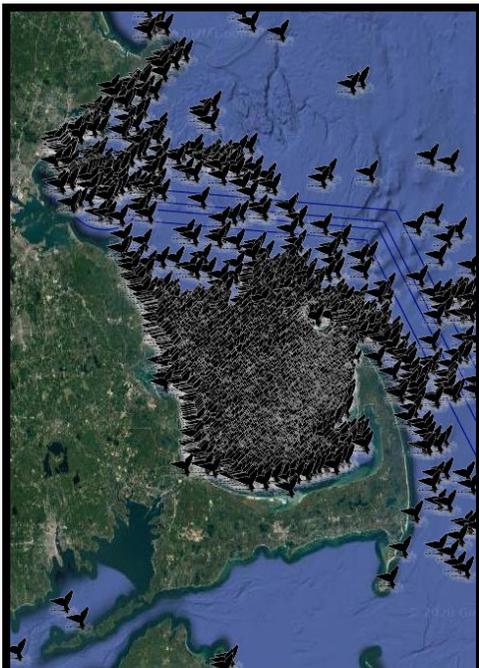


Figure 1 North Atlantic right whale sightings in MA since Jan 1 2015. NOAA SAS <https://apps-nefsc.fisheries.noaa.gov/psb/surveys/MapperiframeWithText.html>

### ***Fixed Gear Closures***

1. 1. Commercial Trap Gear Closure (322 CMR 12.04, 12.08, and 12.11). WDC supports this proposed amendment to increase the area covered by the current Large Whale Seasonal Trap Gear Closure to include all waters of the Commonwealth. A review of North Atlantic right whale sightings over the past five years indicates that right whales have been documented in nearly all areas of MA state waters over the past five years (Figure 1). While entanglements are incidental, their impacts are harmful to both right whales and fisheries. Even for whales who may survive the entanglement event, population level impacts result from sub-lethal effects. The short-term impact of the loss of gear as a result of entanglement is a financial burden to fishers; recorded entanglement-related injuries on right whales can also result in long-term impacts to the fishery from further regulatory measures and restrictions. We therefore support the measure as proposed which is the most conservative and appropriate at this time. We suggest DMF consider modifying the definition of this closure to allow the commercial use of on-demand fishing technology only once it is determined the gear can be implemented safely and effectively.

2. Gillnet Closure in Cape Cod Bay (322 CMR 12.04, 12.08, and 12.12). We acknowledge the additional

protections afforded by the extension of the areas covered by this proposal. We ask DMF to evaluate whether gillnet fishing is occurring during this time frame in other MA state waters and, if so, we

request that that risk be evaluated to determine if this expansion should include additional areas to similarly reduce risk as proposed in the previous expansion for trap/pot fisheries (see 1.)

3. Fixed Gear Closure Extensions (322 CMR 12.04). We support the ability of DMF to retain the regulatory authority to extend fixed gear closures only when necessary. We appreciate that DMF has used its authority to do so based on sound science through dedicated right whale surveys. These extensions have been lifted as soon as right whales have vacated the closed areas, reducing additional burdens on the industry that may be imposed with a permanent extension of the closure dates. Given the proposal to increase the area covered by the closure, we recommend that DMF increase its survey area beyond Cape Cod Bay to cover all waters of the Commonwealth. This ensures the most protective measures are in place for right whales while reducing unnecessary burdens on fisheries by unwarranted closure extensions.
4. Recreational Lobster and Crab Trap Gear Haul-Out Season (322 CMR 6.02). We support the proposed measures limiting recreational lobster and crab pot gear fishing to the time frames outlined. The risk to right whales is from vertical lines in the water which are not exclusive to commercially fished gear. The burden of risk should not be isolated to those whose livelihoods depend on fishing, but should be shared by any users of vertical line in the waters of the Commonwealth.
5. Conch Pot Haul-Out Period (322 CMR 6.12). We support the proposed measure to extend the haul-out period of the conch fishery to April 30 to be consistent with the period covered for other trap/pot fisheries. As stated previously, the risk of entanglement in vertical line is not unique to the target species being fished.

### ***Trap Gear Configuration Modifications and Restrictions***

1. 1,700-lb Breaking Strength Contrivance (322 CMR 12.02 and 12.06). We have previously expressed concerns regarding the efficacy of using 1,700 lb breaking strength rope to reduce serious injury and mortality to right whales, specifically because the data presented in [Knowlton et al. 2015](#) were obtained prior to 2011, before right whales significantly shifted their habitat use; and by the authors' own admission, the breaking strength does not reduce risk of serious injury or mortality to right whales under two years of age. Additionally, reduced breaking strength lines do not reduce entanglement risk or the sub-lethal effects on those whales who become entangled. As such, we support the continued advancement of on-demand gear. However, we acknowledge that on-demand technology remains in development so limiting the strength of rope used in the fishery outside the times of the closure ensures that risk is not increased in the waters of the Commonwealth. As such, we support this measure.
2. Vertical Buoy Line Maximum Diameter for Commercial Trap Gear (322 CMR 12.06). Consistent with our support for the proposed 1,700-lb Breaking Strength Contrivance, we support this measure as it limits rope diameter to what is currently consistently used, therefore ensuring that the impact of an entanglement does not increase.
3. Vertical Buoy Line Maximum Diameter for Recreational Trap Gear (322 CMR 12.06). As stated for the previous two measures, we support this limitation to prevent any potential increases in risk.
4. Prohibition on Single Lobster Traps for Vessels of a Certain Size (322 CMR 12.06). We are not able to quantify the risk reduction of this proposal but agree that this conceptually would reduce vertical line and are therefore supportive. While not stated specifically in the measure, trawls within the Massachusetts State waters must use sinking groundline between the traps, and we ask that be referenced in the language. We do not have information as to why there is a proposed delay for this measure to take effect.

### ***Permitting***

1. Cap on Issuance of Seasonal Lobster Permits (322 CMR 7.01). We are not able to quantify risk reduction by the proposed cap, but agree that a cap on the fishery ensures that risk does not inadvertently increase in the future.

### ***Housekeeping***

We do not oppose any of the four modifications proposed under this section. In addition to these, we request clarification on the current language used for the seasonal gillnet closure. [According to 322CMR 12.04:](#)

(1) Gillnet Closures in Right Whale Critical Habitat and Cape Cod Bay. It is unlawful to fish, store, or abandon gillnets in Critical Habitat **and in waters of Cape Cod Bay west of the Critical Habitat** south of 42° North Latitude during the period January 1st through May 15th. (*emphasis added*).

We are unclear as to what waters are being referenced as “west of the Critical Habitat”. While the 1994 designation for Critical Habitat split within the waters of Cape Cod Bay, the 2016 revision expanded areas covered to include nearly all of the Gulf of Maine including all waters of Cape Cod Bay. We believe the language should be updated to reflect the current definition of critical habitat.

Again, we thank you for the opportunity to comment and for the work of the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries to protect its natural resources and its vibrant commercial fisheries.

Sincerely,



Regina Asmutis-Silva  
Whale and Dolphin Conservation  
[regina.asmutis-silvia@whales.org](mailto:regina.asmutis-silvia@whales.org)

**From:** [Kristy Nardone](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 11, 2020 3:28:37 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Kristy Nardone  
Provincetown, MA 02657

**From:** [Chloe Manning](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 11, 2020 3:26:07 PM

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Thank you.

Chloe Manning  
Quincy, MA 02169

**From:** [Susan Houghton](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 11, 2020 3:25:09 PM

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Thank you.

Susan Houghton  
Falmouth, MA 02540

**From:** [Courtney Anderson](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 11, 2020 3:21:58 PM

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Thank you.

Courtney Anderson  
Sharon, MA 02067

**From:** [Marilyn Rogers](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 11, 2020 3:31:44 PM

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Thank you.

Marilyn Rogers  
Newton, MA 02458

**From:** [Tally Groves](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Whales  
**Date:** Friday, December 11, 2020 3:22:58 PM

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Every life depends on every life  
Please do all you can to protect whales  
Thank you  
Tally Groves  
Eastham MA



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY  
OF THE UNITED STATES**

1255 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, NW  
Suite 450  
Washington, DC 20037  
P 202-452-1100  
F 202-778-6132  
[humanesociety.org](http://humanesociety.org)

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Daniel McKiernan  
Director  
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA 02114  
[marine.fish@mass.gov](mailto:marine.fish@mass.gov)

December 11, 2020

Dear Director McKiernan,

We submit these comments on behalf of the millions of members and constituents of the Humane Society of the United States (the HSUS) in regard to your request for comments on Proposed amendments to Division of Marine Fisheries regulations at 322 CMR 6.00, 7.00, and 12.00. The proposed amendments seek to reduce seasonal risk of seriously injuring or killing critically endangered North Atlantic right whales while they occupy waters under the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth.<sup>1</sup>

The HSUS has held an appointed seat the National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team (ALWTRT) since its founding in the 1990's. Despite multiple amendments to the federal take reduction plan intended to reduce death and serious injury, right whale continue to die in unsustainable numbers and the species continues to decline.<sup>2</sup> In a presentation to the annual meeting of the Right Whale Consortium, NMFS provided a dire assessment of the abundance and ongoing death rates in right whales, with the decline in female right whales the most marked.<sup>3</sup> It is vital that the Commonwealth act to protect females and their young dependent calves, as right whales have been seen feeding in Massachusetts' waters year-round, with greatest the concentrations found in Cape Cod Bay in the late winter and spring."

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<sup>1</sup> See annual distributions at NOAA Right Whale Sighting Advisory System at: <https://apps-nefsc.fisheries.noaa.gov/psb/surveys/MapperiframeWithText.html>

<sup>2</sup> NOAA/NMFS 2020. North Atlantic Right Whale in: [U.S. Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Marine Mammal Stock Assessments, 2019 \(PDF, 479 pages\)](#)

<sup>3</sup> NOAA Fisheries Statement on the Preliminary North Atlantic Right Whale Annual Population Estimate "This year's preliminary estimate is 366 right whales alive as of January 2019. If sustained through peer review, this number would represent a decrease from the estimate reported to the Consortium last year, of 412 right whales alive in January 2018." And "Given the low population numbers (including fewer than 94 breeding females remaining), it is essential that we work together to protect every North Atlantic right whale in order to avoid extinction for this endangered species." Provided to the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team on 10/26/2020 by Colleen Coogan of NMFS/NERO



The Commonwealth issued a draft of Protected Species Regulations at 322 CMR 6.00, 7.00 and 12.00 Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing.<sup>4</sup> We largely agree with the proposed changes, including requirements for trap marking [6.02 (f)]. However, we believe that the dates of the proposed seasonal closure should be of more precautionary duration.

### Seasonal Closure to Protect Right Whales

We request that a closure of the proposed area (in addition to the existing area closed seasonally to trap/pot gear) begin on January 1 of each year and extend through at least May 15 unless aerial surveys have verified that there are fewer than 3 right whales remaining in the closed area over a period of at least 5 days, rather than re-opening automatically on April 30 as proposed. The federal prohibitions are based on a longitudinal data base of sightings in Cape Cod Bay that does not always capture the actual use of the Commonwealth's waters.<sup>5</sup> Because right whales often linger in Massachusetts waters, the Commonwealth has, in several years, had to extend the restricted times/ areas; including an extension earlier this year when the presence of right whales required an extension of protections into the month of May.<sup>6</sup> It is important that the dates of the precautionary closure capture the times when right whales have been reliably documented in Cape Cod Bay and coastal waters of Massachusetts. Moreover, we strongly support a proposed amendment of the regulations that would enlarge the area that would be subject to the current Large Whale Seasonal Trap Gear Closure, making it applicable to all waters under jurisdiction of the Commonwealth (i.e. the proposed amendment to 322 CMR 12.04, 12.08, and 12.11). Our organization strongly supports this proposed amendment to increase the area covered by the current Large Whale Seasonal Trap Gear Closure to include all waters of the Commonwealth.

### Additional Measures

We support the Commonwealth having the ability to extend the closure if right whales remain longer than anticipated in Massachusetts state waters (i.e., the proposal for Fixed Gear Closure Extensions in 322 CMR 12.04).

The HSUS also supports the Commonwealth's proposal for a seasonal gillnet closure in Cape Cod Bay (322 CMR 12.04, 12.08, and 12.12).

We also support other aspects of the state's proposal, designed to reduce risk of potentially fatal entanglements. That is, we support the proposed Prohibition on Single Lobster Traps for Vessels of a Certain Size (322 CMR 12.06) and proposals regulating Vertical Buoy Line Maximum Diameter for Commercial Trap Gear (322 CMR 12.06).

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/proposed-amendments-to-division-of-marine-fisheries-regulations>

<sup>5</sup> The National Marine Fisheries Service's regulatory closure of the Cape Cod Bay Restricted Area includes Cape Cod Bay and portions of the Outer Cape. The Massachusetts Restricted Area, is closed for a portion of the year (January 1-April 30)

<sup>6</sup> See for example: Cape Cod Bay Restrictions Extended to Protect Right Whale Calves. Cape and Islands News. April 29, 2020. At: <https://www.capeandislands.org/post/cape-cod-bay-restrictions-extended-protect-right-whale-calves#stream/0>



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY  
OF THE UNITED STATES**

Thank you for taking swift and strong action to protect critically endangered North Atlantic Right whales whose survival relies on their safety while feeding and foraging seasonally in waters of the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sharon B. Young". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sharon B. Young  
Senior Strategist, Marine Issues

CHAD MAHONEY  
F/V FIRST LIGHT  
887 Nantasket Avenue  
Hull, MA 02045  
Cmahoney5@verizon.net

December 11, 2020

Daniel McKiernan, Director  
251 Causeway Street  
Suite 400  
Boston, MA 02114  
[Marine.fish@mass.gov](mailto:Marine.fish@mass.gov)

RE: Proposed Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing

Dear Mr. McKiernan,

I attended the December 8<sup>th</sup> zoom hearing regarding the proposed closure of commercial trap gear in all state waters. I understand the State is up against the whale restrictions and is working to help the endangered species. In doing so however, the State's actions are negatively affecting the commercial lobster industry. If the closure takes effect, I will lose out on at least three months' worth of commercial lobster fishing in state waters. Not only will I lose out on that two months' worth of income, but I employ two sternman who will also lose that income.

With all of the past regulations imposed against the lobster fisherman due to the whale issues, our industry has been hit hard and limited in being able to conduct our business. We have already had to adapt our business to protect the whales with such measures as breakaway rope and our MA Lobsterman's Association has spent thousands of dollars in litigation against whale litigation. At some point, human lives and businesses must be prioritized. There is no other fishery that we can work during the three proposed months of closure so we have no ability to make up for that lost work and income.

I urge you to consider the lobster industry and do whatever possible to sustain our businesses.

Sincerely,

*Chad Mahoney*  
Chad Mahoney

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [lissalarosa@comcast.net](mailto:lissalarosa@comcast.net)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 9:56:21 PM

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Dear Director McKiernan:

As a concerned Massachusetts resident, I fear the North Atlantic right whale may go extinct in my lifetime. North Atlantic right whales are dying due to human actions. The DoMF, alongside NOAA, has the opportunity to make the necessary changes to save this species. I am glad to see our commonwealth is taking necessary steps to ensure the protection and survival of right whales by proposing new regulations for commercial fixed gear fisheries and recreational lobster and crab trap fisheries. Some of the changes I support include:

- Expanded closures for trap fisheries in all of Massachusetts waters.
- A new closed season for the buoyed recreational lobster and crab trap fishery.
- The DoMF retaining the ability to extend these closures based on North Atlantic right whale sightings.
- A marking system that will differentiate the gear that may be lawfully used in Massachusetts from heavier gear that may be used in the offshore exclusive economic zone or Canada.

I strongly encourage the DoMF to develop a plan for a full transition to ropeless technology in commercial trap fisheries as quickly and responsibly as possible. Removing vertical lines from the water is the only way to fully prevent entanglements and save this species.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

Lisa La Rosa  
6 Kristine Ln  
Haverhill, MA 01832-8817

**From:** [CARL HOWARD](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#); [McKiernan, Dan \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New regulations  
**Date:** Friday, December 11, 2020 9:37:10 AM

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### ***Fixed Gear Closures***

#### ***4 Recreational Lobsters and Crap Trap Gear Haul-Out Season***

*From Labor Day to Memorial Day -The reasoning is that they haul gear on weekends after Labor Day the weather starts to come up so if they can't haul gear on the weekends it will go onto the following weekend and so on and I think this will help with the ghost gear over the winter.*

### ***Trap Gear Modification and Restrictions***

#### ***4 Prohibition on Single Lobster Traps for Vessels of a Certain Size***

*All with overall length of 29' or greater - Proposal if fishing single traps to use breaking strength of 300 pounds this will be way less poundage than proposed. I do not think vessels 29' should be exempt in our area most of the boats that fish for lobsters in our area are under 29' very few boats are over 29' it should be all or nothing. For over 30 years I fished singles and I built a bigger boat for safety reasons due to health problems which is documented handicap and now I will have to hire more people and It will cut into my bottom line which I cannot afford and it would be impossible for me to fish trawls I tried fishing trawls with the bigger boat and got caught in the line and got dragged to the stern luckily it was not a open stern boat. The past eight years have I used these breakaways and gear lost was minimal and gear lost was to fishermen and boats. The state has always been the leader in most Regulations and I feel this is a little overboard.*

*Carl Howard*

**From:** [wanda sisum](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Comment on last nights hearing  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020 7:18:23 PM

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Hello Daniel,

My name is Wanda Sisum DVM and I have volunteered with IFAW for years. It was through them that I had a link to your hearing. I was simply wondering if there could ever be state or federal tax incentives to help fishermen switch to ropeless technology in order to offset the cost. Like what we get for using solar panels. Have you thought of tapping MIT students to come up with a tech that wouldn't cost as much yet be functional?

It's great to have the lines break at 1700lbs but my concern is we are going to wind up with a lot more lost gear in the water as whales break these lines, which will also cost the fishermen money. It just seems ropeless is what we should be ultimately striving for.

I'm sure you're very busy so I don't need a reply, just wanted to share my thoughts. Thank you for your efforts.

**From:** [George Conlow](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Comment on Proposed Regulations for protecting Right Whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 7:06:22 PM

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I am not an expert. I just love the right whales and am pleased when I see them on the cape. I appreciate continued movement toward protecting these whales.

My worry is that whales of all sizes and ages can get entangled and 1700 break ropes might not protect the youngest and/or smallest of whales.

Also, I think that 1700 break ropes **MUST** be studied afterwards if this goes into effect. You **HAVE** to collect data on these ropes to see if the change is actually effective.

I have learned that ropeless fishing is possible and would make an enormous difference in the protection of the whales. This would probably be very expensive for fisherman so maybe there could be incentives and help for impacted fisherman.

But on the other hand, I think that some sort of accountability should be put in place. Maybe all ropes have to be tagged with an ID number or something so that fisherman who's ropes get entangled with a whale are alerted and then we'll know where the lines were placed, etc.

George Conlow

**From:** [McKiernan, Dan \(FWE\)](#)  
**To:** [Silva, Jared \(FWE\)](#); [Reed, Story \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Pugh, Tracy \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: South shore sleeve costing  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020 1:18:21 PM

---

**From:** gilchrestc@novabraid.com <gilchrestc@novabraid.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020 12:40 PM  
**To:** McKiernan, Dan (FWE) <dan.mckiernan@mass.gov>  
**Cc:** Glenn, Robert (FWE) <robert.glenn@mass.gov>; loricaron3@aol.com  
**Subject:** South shore sleeve costing

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Good morning Dan,

I attended last evening's virtual public hearing and wanted to circle back on comments made regarding the cost and availability of the South Shore sleeve for creating reduced break strength vertical lines. Some mention was made that DFW had obtained some 4000 sleeves recently and I was glad to hear that the sleeves had been provided in a timely fashion (two weeks was what I heard). What I was distressed about was the statement that the sleeves may cost fishermen over \$5 per 6' sleeve. I was called this morning by a lobsterman from the Nahant saying that nobody would buy or use the sleeves at a cost of \$5 per sleeve but would instead simply tie a knot in the line OR splice in a ¼" rope section into their vertical lines. I believe whoever came up with that sort of price was either misinformed OR in the case of the DFW purchase, perhaps the dealer that sold the sleeves may have thought that the Mass government would pay whatever they asked for and was selling the sleeves to you at a substantial profit.

While our company, being a Canadian company and sells only to wholesale distributors, can't set pricing for consumers or sell direct to the fishermen in the Commonwealth, I can assure you that the current wholesale price of the sleeves would allow for a healthy profit margin at the distributor level while keeping the cost per sleeve to the fisherman under \$2.50 even with a keystone markup. I will also add that the sleeves are cut to 6' lengths and that recent studies by Amy Knowlton, et al in 2018 indicated that the sleeves were still effective on 3/8" rope when cut to a 3' length. Doing so would make the sleeve far more affordable with up to 96 sleeves that could be rendered from the stock package. I would advocate that sleeves being used on 5/16" line should not be cut short as that may reduce the grip the sleeve can exert of the smaller diameter ropes when not under tension.

Additionally, while not directly a part of the current regulatory proposal, the elephant in the room with acquiring new gear for the fishery must contain language that addresses gear marking.

Whether it is the red rope, the candy stripe rope, or our rope sleeves being used to identify gear used in state waters, you really should not expect a company or fishermen to spend substantial amount of time and money creating vertical lines to comply with proposed regulations in a very short period of time and then pull the rug out from under them saying that they need to modify the

gear again to accommodate a color change regulation. As a manufacturer, we have limited selection of colored yarns that can be used to make the sleeves and still achieve the desired break strength mandated by state and possibly federal regulators. I suspect that would be the case with the 3 strand rope that Beth Casoni has been involved with acquiring.

Finally, I am somewhat concerned that as a participant in the development of the contrivance used to mitigate whale entanglements, that nobody from the Commonwealth, other than Rob Martin has included Novabraid in any discussions as to how we can work together to have solutions in place when regulations are implemented. The sleeve solution to minimizing whale entanglements has literally been available for 5 years and our efforts to date have included a substantial amount of R&D, public involvement, and interaction with a wide range of industry associations and scientific researchers all at a substantial cost to our company. To be fair, we would not have undertaken any of these initiatives if we didn't strive to offer a solution to keep lobstermen on the water while keeping the whales safe within their habitat. I welcome any opportunity to be included in future discussions and interactions with your agency with regards to providing solutions to the whale entanglement issues at hand.

Respectfully yours,

Chuck Gilchrest

Novatec Braids Ltd.

[gilchrestc@novabraid.com](mailto:gilchrestc@novabraid.com)

01-774-328-4473 (mobile)

**From:** Tyler Macallister <[fvcynthiac@comcast.net](mailto:fvcynthiac@comcast.net)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020 7:33 AM  
**To:** 'jared.silva@mass.gov' <[jared.silva@mass.gov](mailto:jared.silva@mass.gov)>  
**Subject:** Proposed lobster closure  
**Importance:** High

I am a little confused by the proposed closure of area 2 to winter fishing for lobsters. This is for the most part the only time of the year that small scale state lobstermen from Buzzards Bay area catch lobsters in the inshore fishery. Additionally, interaction with right whales in this area is nearly non-existent. I have several friends who are state licensed commercial lobstermen who fish the winter fishery who will be decimated by this.

I can understand restrictions in area 1 (Cape Cod Bay), as I have seen the whales many times from February until about May 1 both from the air and from the boat. I have never seen a right whale in Buzzards Bay or anywhere near the Elizabeth Island chain or Martha's Vineyard.

The fishery for lobsters in MA is unique, those that fish north of the Cape and Cape Cod Bay start fishing in May/June and haul out in November/December. Whereas, those that fish Buzzards Bay and around the Elizabeth Islands and the Vineyard set gear in November/December and haul the gear out in April/May. If this proposal is accepted, the lobstermen of SE Mass will be out of business for a problem that does not exist.

I am not fishing for lobsters in area 2, but I do recognize when a proposal is unfounded and the damage it can do is severe at time when all fisherman are feeling strains due to COVID-19.

Thank you for your time!!

Have a great day!!

*Tyler Macallister, Owner/Captain*  
*F/V Cynthia C<sup>2</sup>*  
*(508) 221-8991 (m)*  
*[fvcynthiac@comcast.net](mailto:fvcynthiac@comcast.net)*

**From:** [Tiff DeGroot](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020 9:56:06 AM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Director Daniel McKiernan,

Massachusetts can be a leader in the fight to save the North Atlantic right whale.

With less than 400 individuals remaining, the North Atlantic right whale is one of the most critically endangered marine animals in the world. Entanglement in fishing gear and collisions with ships are pushing the species towards extinction. We must take strong action today before it's too late to save them.

North Atlantic right whales migrating through the waters of the East Coast must navigate a maze of deadly vertical rope. Ropeless fishing gear can be the solution that we need to save right whales and keep fishermen on the water.

[add more here]

cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Brendan Adams](#)  
**To:** [McKiernan, Dan \(FWE\)](#); [Reed, Story \(FWE\)](#); [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Beth Casoni](#); [Dana Pazolt](#); [Dameon P](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment on New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 10:42:48 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

The following is my public comment on proposed regulations effecting fixed gear fisheries that occur in Massachusetts state water and are regulated by Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries. I will keep this as brief as possible since the fine details of each part could be debated extensively and I assume that there are plenty of other comments to read.

Regarding further fixed gear closures: What DMF has been doing (dynamic closures) has been working rather well, lets not add more draconian measures just to appease the myriad of egos who think they know better than everyone else. This (lobstering) is already turning into more of a derby fishery, lets not further compound that. The current dynamic closure seems to work ok, I don't see how more closures will help. DMF has been doing a good job to the best of its ability.

Regarding Recreational Lobster/Crab Fishery Haul Out Season: This should have been in effect decades ago. If the traps are there much after Labor Day they are probably being abandoned. Doesn't Maine have a five trap limit for recreational lobstering? That seems like something we could all have an honest discussion about. Maybe we should consider that.

Conch Pot Haul-Out Period: Does anyone even catch conchs where whales of any type occur in Massachusetts state waters? Why are the 'turtle huggers' so hot to try and limit the conch fishery? Does anyone here even catch conchs in the spring? How about we just let the current conch rules stay the way they are without any further closures, unless the area to be fished is the same as where a lobster haul out period is occurring. Does that make sense to anyone?

1700-lb. Breaking Strength Contrivance and Vertical Line Maximum Diameter for commercial: I personally think this is rather redundant considering that we are already using mandatory 600-lb. breakaways by the buoy. I did test the 1700-lb. breaking strength line and although it is OK. I think we could just simplify this proposed rule with a maximum line diameter rule instead of a lengthy set of regulations involving breaking strength maximums and weak contrivances. If we are forced by the engo machine and NOAA into going the contrivance route, then lets leave all the available options open so we can all use what we think is best. I personally don't want to go with the 'south shore sleeve' option myself, but that may work for other people. Lets leave all options open if we are forced into it, but it would be simpler to just make a maximum diameter vertical line rule. 3/8" for trawls, 5/16" for singles seems reasonable.

Vertical Line Maximum Diameter For Recreational: I agree. 5/16" or smaller

Prohibition on Single Lobster Traps for Vessels of A Certain Size: This is highly discriminatory and will cause further consolidation in the industry. Fishing singles evens a competitive playing field for people with smaller boats or people who fish alone. We have seen a lot of over capitalization in the industry with money flowing in from other places than fishing. Allowing the greediest, best funded people to take over is not ok. Also, competition for bottom is already ugly. It will be way worse if everyone is trying to cram trawls into the same 8 depth contours. Frankly, anyone who wants to fish singles, which are proven by all available science to be much safer for whales and always have lower diameter buoy lines, should be allowed. If you want a maximum size vessel for singles, lets go with what ever Jeffery Souza's new vessel length is, 45' I believe. That would leave plenty of leeway for everyone. It is going to be a complete horror show if everyone goes to trawls in the coastal lobster fishery. People should be allowed to fish the gear configuration that they deem reasonable, singles or trawls. I personally think multiple traps fished on

one buoy line also will have a lot of issues. I fish singles and trawls.

Cap on Seasonal (student) Lobster Permits: That seems reasonable given the data related to it and the fact that the permits turn over in reasonable amounts of time.

Ropeless fishing: It is not going to work. Not because we (fishermen) are all resistant to it, but because it will not work. The end result is really expensive ghost gear, and (maybe) retrieval by the use of a grapple. The technology isn't there, and the people pushing the technology are either clueless, or chasing grant money and dollar signs. I personally am deeply convinced that Desert Star Systems and Woods Hole group are up to forcing vessel monitoring upon us, and that this push is backed by powerful egos, who most likely have skin in the game and money to gain by it being shoved down our throats. Woods Hole Group is partnered with Desert Star Systems to build hopeless fishing technology. Despite their best efforts to create a fairy tale that ropeless fishing will work great, that we all want it, and that we will save money by using it, those are all false statements made on purpose. Even the eco-terrorist Richard "Max" Strahan says the right whales will go extinct if there are zero vertical lines in the whole Atlantic, so what are really we debating here. We (fishermen) have all bent over backwards to do our part, and made great results (600-lb. Breakaways). I think all fishermen see themselves as stewards of the ocean, much more than engo employees for that matter. But we have limits, and ropeless fishing is it. Anyone (fisherman) who is saying they want ropeless fishing must be getting paid to say it. My spell check keeps changing ropeless to hopeless. That seems pretty astute.

I will have more comments after I watch the meetings.

Thank You,

Brendan Adams

**From:** [Michael Kozuch](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Right Whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 6:39:21 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. McKiernan -

Thank you for your efforts to protect Right Whales. The proposed regulations are insufficient and do not completely address the issue of entanglements, the leading cause of right whale deaths. 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once in their lives, and over half of the population has been entangled more than once. We need to get rope out of the water—and fast. Ropeless fishing gear can help solve the problem of right whale entanglements, while helping the fishing industry thrive. A pathway towards advancing ropeless gear permitting is currently not being considered by DMF in its draft regulations.

Thank you.

Michael Kozuch  
Boston, MA 02127

**From:** [shannon](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Right whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 5:03:40 PM

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Dear Director McKiernan,

As a marine animal rescue volunteer for Mystic Aquarium, I am thrilled and humbled every time I have the privilege of participating in a rescue. As you know, Right whales are in danger from boat strikes, nets and ropes. I agree that our intrepid fisherpeople need to make their living from gathering fish but they should not be using methods dangerous to creatures for which they are not gathering. Let's remove the methods that are dangerous - not just to Right whales but to all species in our beloved Atlantic. Dolphins, sea turtles, mahi mahi and many others are killed by these abandoned materials for no reason other than carelessness. Let's build a more responsible culture where leaving any kind of line (fishing line, ropes, nets, the whole range) in or near the ocean and carelessly striking a marine animal are crimes that are actively enforced. Maybe nets etc should have tracking devices on them? A decrease in speed limits would make spotting animals under the surface a lot easier. There have to be other fishing towns that can supply other modern ideas which have brought success, which can be used here. Let's not lose one more endangered animal.

Thank you.

Shannon Kelley

**From:** [Rob Morris](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Ropeless fishing  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 7:27:26 PM

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Dan,

I am amazed and perplexed by your comments about ropeless fishing technology. I would like to meet with you and discuss our Ropeless system with you. Our system is commercially available and addresses the problem of set over and gear conflicts with mobile fishing gear. For just \$25 anyone on the water with a cell phone and our Trap Tracker application can virtually see where our ropeless gear has been set. There is a group pushing the false narrative that marking gear at the surface is not good enough but that is just not accurate. We have test results that shows in fact, ropeless gear does not move during storms like buoyed gear would move.

You are promoting the use of weak rope/links when as far as I know, there is no scientific data that weak rope would even work. Has anyone done a test on a right whale to determine how they pull when entangled on a trap? From what I know that 1700 Lb. number was interpolated from what a navy dolphin can pull.

Weak links if they actually worked will still leave thousands of traps on the bottom ghost fishing.

Best Regards,  
Rob Morris  
Product Line Sales Engineer  
4 Little Brook Road  
West Wareham, MA 02576  
Office: 508-356-9712  
Mobile: 508-524-8894

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ueG6T9nukmE>



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**From:** [Paul Grohne](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Ropeless  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 7:17:09 PM

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Dear Director Daniel McKiernan,

I attended the public hearing tonight and I'm just a retired physical therapist who doesn't understand the ins and outs of fishing gear, after visiting <https://ropelessforrightwhales.com/>, I just want to add my voice to encourage ropeless gear because it seems like that type of gear is less harmful to whales. Thanks and have a nice day.

Paul Grohne  
pgrohne@yahoo.com  
617 429-4331

**From:** [heather bring](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020 12:59:29 AM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

heather bring  
Westerly, RI 02891

**From:** [Kira Kasper](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020 12:57:21 AM

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Thank you.

Kira Kasper  
Orleans, MA 02653

**From:** [Scott Gorn](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020 12:54:33 AM

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Thank you.

Scott Gorn  
Wilbraham, MA 01095

**From:** [Drew Suffoletta](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020 12:52:02 AM

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Thank you.

Drew Suffoletta  
Cincinnati, OH 45218

**From:** [Donna Holland](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020 12:49:13 AM

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Thank you.

Donna Holland  
Cranston, RI 02920

**From:** [Colleen Barrett](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020 12:47:09 AM

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Thank you.

Colleen Barrett  
Provincetown, MA 02657

**From:** [Karla Kelley](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020 12:44:29 AM

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Thank you.

Karla Kelley  
Salem, MA 01970

**From:** [Ashley Stokes](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020 12:42:17 AM

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Thank you.

Ashley Stokes  
Haverhill, MA 01832

**From:** [Bianca Carreiro](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020 12:39:47 AM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Bianca Carreiro  
South Dartmouth, MA 02748

**From:** [Pam Kroeber](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020 12:36:27 AM

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Thank you.

Pam Kroeber  
Mystic, CT 06355

**From:** [Martha Gilmore](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020 12:33:41 AM

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Thank you.

Martha Gilmore  
Groton, CT 06340

**From:** [Suresh Sundaram](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020 12:29:43 AM

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Thank you.

Suresh Sundaram  
Lexington, MA 02421

**From:** [William Oakes](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020 12:23:43 AM

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Thank you.

William Oakes  
East Sandwich, MA 02537

**From:** [Mary Reidt](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020 12:21:13 AM

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Thank you.

Mary Reidt  
Spring Hill, FL 34606

**From:** [Zane M](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020 12:18:35 AM

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Thank you.

Zane M  
Los Altos, CA 94022

**From:** [Tina Grosowsky](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020 12:15:10 AM

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Thank you.

Tina Grosowsky  
Hudson, MA 01749

**From:** [Hayley Rinaldi](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020 12:12:23 AM

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Hayley Rinaldi  
North Hollywood, CA 91602

**From:** [Lindsay Vincelette](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020 12:09:25 AM

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Lindsay Vincelette  
Delmar, NY 12054

**From:** [Kelli Martony](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020 12:06:54 AM

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Kelli Martony  
Lompoc, CA 93436

**From:** [Bonnie Hackett](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020 12:01:23 AM

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Bonnie Hackett  
South Berwick, ME 03908

**From:** [Chelsea Melzer](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 11:58:53 PM

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Chelsea Melzer  
Gainesville, FL 32605

**From:** [Pam Carr](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 11:55:57 PM

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Pam Carr  
Westerly, RI 02891

**From:** [Amir Ehsani](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 11:52:29 PM

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Amir Ehsani  
West Newton, MA 02465

**From:** [Hilary Meyer](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 11:49:59 PM

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Thank you.

Hilary Meyer  
Bourne, MA 02532

**From:** [Rachel Gregg](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 11:47:42 PM

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Rachel Gregg  
Exeter, NH 2579

**From:** [Laurie Macha](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 11:42:23 PM

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Thank you.

Laurie Macha  
Baltic, CT 06330

**From:** [ALLISON HABEKOST](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 11:37:52 PM

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Thank you.

ALLISON HABEKOST  
San Clemente, CA 92673

**From:** [Kelly Eaves](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 11:35:21 PM

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Kelly Eaves  
Lisbon, CT 06351

**From:** [Amanda Taft-Pearman](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 11:32:51 PM

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Amanda Taft-Pearman  
Westwood, MA 02090

**From:** [Jeffrey Knaus](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 4:41:57 PM

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Thank you.

Jeffrey Knaus  
Ross, CA 94957

**From:** [Christine Elie](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 4:39:01 PM

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Christine Elie  
Haverhill, MA 01832

**From:** [Peter Ajemian](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 4:36:11 PM

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Peter Ajemian  
Bridgewater, MA 02324

**From:** [Sheri Carl](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 4:32:21 PM

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Sheri Carl  
Ashland, MA 01721

**From:** [Emily D Adams](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 4:29:51 PM

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Emily D Adams  
West Suffield, CT 06093

**From:** [Mary Ann Clark](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 4:25:45 PM

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Mary Ann Clark  
Weatogue, CT 06089

**From:** [Julia Carfagno](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 4:21:17 PM

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Julia Carfagno  
Boston, MA 02128

**From:** [Tiffany Haverfield](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 4:18:33 PM

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Tiffany Haverfield  
Boston, MA 02108

**From:** [Robert Humphrey](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 4:16:33 PM

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Robert Humphrey  
Warner, NH 03278

**From:** [Christiane Kovarik](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 4:14:03 PM

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Thank you.

Christiane Kovarik  
Wiscasset, ME 04578

**From:** [charlie burns](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 4:09:14 PM

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Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled twice or more. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining. Right whales could be extinct within our lifetime.

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Thank you.

charlie burns  
Norwalk, CT 06850

**From:** [Deborah Fexis](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 4:03:26 PM

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Thank you.

Deborah Fexis  
Nottingham, NH 03290

**From:** [Saskia Vanderhoop](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 3:58:12 PM

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Thank you.

Saskia Vanderhoop  
Cotuit, MA 2635

**From:** [John Young](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 3:54:08 PM

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John Young  
Roslindale, MA 02131

**From:** [winn wilson](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 3:51:38 PM

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winn wilson  
Willimantic, CT 06226

**From:** [Noah Hanmer](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 3:49:27 PM

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Noah Hanmer  
Bristol, RI 02809

**From:** [Donna Soodalter-Toman](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 3:44:31 PM

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Donna Soodalter-Toman  
Gloucester, MA 01930

**From:** [Cathie Mestemaker-Harris](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 3:38:38 PM

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Cathie Mestemaker-Harris  
Plainfield, CT 06374

**From:** [Susan McCarthy](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 3:34:16 PM

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Susan McCarthy  
Brewster, MA 02631

**From:** [Erica Canestraro](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 3:31:45 PM

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Erica Canestraro  
Chatham, MA 02633

**From:** [Peter Kahigian](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 3:27:42 PM

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Peter Kahigian  
Haverhill, MA 01831

**From:** [Donna Thomas](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 3:22:16 PM

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Donna Thomas  
Plainfield, VT 05667

**From:** [Janice Banks](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 3:19:52 PM

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Janice Banks  
Center Barnstead, NH 03225

**From:** [Hadley Clark](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 3:16:44 PM

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Hadley Clark  
Woods Hole, MA 02543

**From:** [MaryDana Gershanoff](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 3:14:13 PM

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MaryDana Gershanoff  
Lincoln, MA 01773

**From:** [Ellen Buchmaier](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020 1:01:31 AM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Ellen Buchmaier  
Walpole, MA 02081

**From:** [Eric Knowles](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** SINGLE TRAP ISSUE  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020 9:29:24 AM

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Good Evening Dan. I hope all is well in your world. This is Eric Knowles, out on Cape Cod. As a Nauset fisherman I'm sure you realize our position with singles. I am sure the findings of the ASMFC meeting in the winter of 2014 , or 2015 when we first really fought the single/trawl issue have been brought to light ? The findings showed trawl and gillnet to be over 80 % of entanglements with singles being in the single digits percentage wise. I understand that decreasing the occurrence of incidental takes could help, but switching to a manner of fishing that is more deadly seems to undercut the goal. I know we are in a tight spot with this and maybe we have to give them what they want to allow us to fish this year, BUT...If the end result is about the whales and not personal agenda then the facts have already spoken in regards to singles , haven't they?

Sincerely,  
Eric Knowles

P.S. Thanks for your service over the years. You've been nothing but helpful in our fight.

**From:** [Bonnie Frank](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 8:40:03 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern,

I am writing from Maine today with my concern on your proposed fishing regulations concerning the whales. I feel this is a waste of my time as if you as experts cannot see the damage of your own work I'm not sure I can help you. The stats are there, the answer to fish safely without harm is there with a great alternative but yet you take the money train? The harmful way? The destructive long term way? I guess I'm just a dumb lady that grew up with a Dad that was Coast Guard/ Navy for 17 years and world tours across the seas and saw it all-Nope , let's leave this to the experts- be those people please and reconsider.

Thank You and Praying you'll prove me wrong and do the right thing for all Gods creatures. Sincerely  
Bonnie Frank

Words have no power to impress the mind without the exquisite horror of their reality.  
Edgar Allan Poe

**From:** [karenvergoni@gmail.com](mailto:karenvergoni@gmail.com)  
**To:** [Silva, Jared \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Closing Lobstering  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 10:52:37 AM

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During these economic times, how can MA consider closing lobstering on the South Coast?

Small businesses in these communities will go out of business if this goes into effect.

Please reconsider at tonight's hearing.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [karenvergoni@gmail.com](mailto:karenvergoni@gmail.com)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Closing MA Lobstering  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 10:55:10 AM

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How can you consider closing lobstering in MA during these economic times brought on by a global pandemic.

Small businesses will go out of business as a result of this policy.

Please reconsider.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [David Duncan Dow](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [David Duncan Dow](#); [Michaela Morris](#)  
**Subject:** Comments on Massa. Division of Marine Fisheries Proposed Regulations on Protected Species and Trap/Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 12:53:09 PM

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**CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

Dear Director Daniel McKiernan:

I am a retired marine scientist and grassroots environmental activist living on Cape Cod. I have been engaged in the NOAA Fisheries GARFO (Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office) dialog on large whale mortalities from entanglements in American lobster pot gear (i.e. Unusual Mortality Event under the Marine Mammal Protection Act). I attended a public hearing in Bourne, Ma. on the plan proposed by the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team to reduce North Atlantic large whale mortalities below one per year. Marine Mammal ENGOs challenged this plan in court and I gather that NOAA Fisheries will have to conduct an EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) as part of a new plan to reduce mortalities. Many of these NARW mortalities occur in the Gulf of Maine/St. Lawrence and further offshore in deeper waters as the NARWs and American lobster shift their distribution in space and time as inshore waters respond to climate change; increased ocean noise; incompatible uses of ocean space (wind farms; large transportation vessels; US Navy training); etc.

Even though I was impressed at the Bourne meeting on the actions taken in Massachusetts state jurisdictional waters (0-3 miles) by Ma. DMF and lobster fishing organizations (which are expanded in these proposed regulations on trap and gill net fishing effects on protected species), it is hard to evaluate their adequacy in light of Marine Mammal ENGO Lawsuit/NOAA Fisheries EIS on their NARW Management Plan. Added to this uncertainty is the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Supplemental EIS on the Vineyard Wind 1 project in which the cumulative environmental impact assessment of the 20 wind farms to be built between North Carolina and New England between now and 2030 indicated potential negative effects on NARWs and fisheries management. During my time at the Northeast Fisheries Science Center- Woods Hole Laboratory, I served as Recreational Fisheries Coordinator; was a member of the New England Fishery Management Council's Habitat Plan Development Team which helped develop Omnibus Habitat Amendment 2 (released in 2018); served on a Task Force on Reauthorization of the MMPA in the mid-1990's and participated in the EMaX carbon flow model for the Northeast Continental Shelf Ecosystem.

The recent NOAA Fisheries 2020 State of the Ecosystem Report for the Mid-Atlantic and New England regions pointed out that climate change effects on the marine pelagic ecosystem would effect both Living Marine and Protected Resources management/conservation. The changes in the Gulf of of Maine (which includes Cape Cod Bay) illustrates some of the consequence of rapid warming in the surface waters from Spring through the Fall on both the plankton at the base of the food chain (microbial and grazing food chains) and top down changes in predation/competition as predators and their prey shift in space and time. I would hope that the Ma. DMF and its constituents develop some type of adaptive, ecosystems-based management approach to address

these complex changes in the ecosystem that supports both NARWs and American lobster pot fishing. In recent years, periodic benthic anoxia events in the bottom waters of Cape Cod Bay have killed lobsters in their pots. This anoxia is likely due to a combination of nitrogen enrichment; increased ocean acidity and warming waters and shifts in ocean circulation. This has led to a complex, dynamic ecosystem with non-linear interactions which runs contrary to the assumptions of the Northeast Atlantic Regional Ecosystem conceptual model (steady state ecosystem which is at equilibrium with environmental/human stressors).

Since I retired in 2009, I don't know what types of monitoring programs and NARW research efforts have been put in place to reduce mortalities from entanglements in lobster pot gear. The long term solution is obviously ropeless lobster gear, but I don't know if this is ready to be implemented in a cost effective fashion by the American lobstermen/women fishing in state jurisdictional waters. A team of scientists from Rutgers University; University of Rhode Island and the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution are exploring the effects off of Atlantic City, NJ on NARWs. The NOAA Fisheries GARFO Protected Species Office has developed some new management tools (i.e. scenario analysis) to help convert monitoring and scientific studies of NARWs/lobster fishing into information useful for resource managers and their constituents. I have no idea what capability Ma. DMF has in this area for converting monitoring/scientific research data into useful information to support their proposed regulations on how trap and gill net fishing effects protective species conservation. When I chaired two Fishery/Ecosystem monitoring Task Forces at the NEFSC, we faced the challenge of being data rich, but information poor when it came to supporting a, EbM for managing lobster fishing and conserving NARWs.

Given the limited resources (\$ and people) available to the Ma. DMF, I would recommend forming partnerships with other entities: Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment; academic researchers; ENGOS and marine conservation entities; fishing organizations to find out changes in the distribution of NARWs/lobster fishing hot spots; the NOAA Fisheries Protected Species scientists/regulators; other Federal entities (BOEM and US Navy) ; etc.). Since the NARW population is down to 360 (?) animals or a hundred below their recovery target, we face an existential crisis which requires input from a variety of sources to reduce NARW mortality from lobster gear entanglements below one animal per year and increasing the calving rate of mature females, so that the population starts to rebuild once again. Thus in my view the proposed regulations are a step in the right direction, but may not be adequate to restore the population of critically endangered species like the NARW. It could help Humpback and Sperm whales which are also suffering as part of the UME crisis.

Thanks for your consideration of these comments.

Dr. David D. Dow  
East Falmouth, Ma.

**From:** [Chris Ecklund](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Help us Save The North Atlantic right whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 10:01:44 AM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

My family and I vacationed for 25 years on Cape Cod. We came every summer because of the natural beauty of the landscape and the incredible wildlife in the area. We also valued the appreciation that the majority of Cape Cod inhabitants demonstrated for their environment and the creatures that make their home here. It's why we chose to retire here full time. However, we now have a large concern about the recent proposed state's measures to reduce the impact of fishery entanglement on right whales, and other marine species. They are not sufficient to have the impact necessary to save the North Atlantic right whale.

The majestic North Atlantic right whale is at risk of extinction. The primary causes of death for right whales are ship strikes and entanglements. *No right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years.* I am writing to express my concern about the proposed draft regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales. The proposed regulations are simply not enough to address the entanglement risks that right whales face in our Massachusetts' waters.

The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed. This includes Massachusetts state waters. These ropes pose a large threat of entanglement for our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale and therefore increase the likelihood of extinction.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled twice or more. The population, which is estimated at only 366, is rapidly declining. We could cause and see the extinction of right whales in our lifetime, but we can stop it!

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. Draft regulations would only require using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots. This is not enough. Breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles further reducing their numbers and long-term sustainability. To protect the North Atlantic Right Whale this proposal must be revised entirely, and provide for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. Extensive data indicate ropeless fishing gear has a 98.4 percent success rate, and multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today and keep the fishing industry healthy while protecting sea mammals including the North Atlantic right whale.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping our fisherman and the fishing industry viable. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the North Atlantic right whale. We can make a difference if we act now.

Thank you.

Christine Ecklund Groundwater and Paul S. Groundwater  
Brewster, MA

**From:** [PLJ](#)  
**To:** [Silva, Jared \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Lobstermen  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 10:42:40 AM

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State....leave these guys alone.....your rules are bullshit

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [Samantha Greene](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 9:53:21 AM

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Dear Director McKiernan:

As a concerned Massachusetts resident, I fear the North Atlantic right whale may go extinct in my lifetime. North Atlantic right whales are dying due to human actions. The DoMF, alongside NOAA, has the opportunity to make the necessary changes to save this species. I am glad to see our commonwealth is taking necessary steps to ensure the protection and survival of right whales by proposing new regulations for commercial fixed gear fisheries and recreational lobster and crab trap fisheries. Some of the changes I support include:

- Expanded closures for trap fisheries in all of Massachusetts waters.
- A new closed season for the buoyed recreational lobster and crab trap fishery.
- The DoMF retaining the ability to extend these closures based on North Atlantic right whale sightings.
- A marking system that will differentiate the gear that may be lawfully used in Massachusetts from heavier gear that may be used in the offshore exclusive economic zone or Canada.

I strongly encourage the DoMF to develop a plan for a full transition to ropeless technology in commercial trap fisheries as quickly and responsibly as possible. Removing vertical lines from the water is the only way to fully prevent entanglements and save this species.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

Samantha Greene  
133 Governors Ave  
Medford, MA 02155

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [Kathy Vadnais](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 1:35:16 PM

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Dear Director McKiernan:

As a concerned Massachusetts resident, I fear the North Atlantic right whale may go extinct in my lifetime. North Atlantic right whales are dying due to human actions. The DoMF, alongside NOAA, has the opportunity to make the necessary changes to save this species. I am glad to see our commonwealth is taking necessary steps to ensure the protection and survival of right whales by proposing new regulations for commercial fixed gear fisheries and recreational lobster and crab trap fisheries. Some of the changes I support include:

- Expanded closures for trap fisheries in all of Massachusetts waters.
- A new closed season for the buoyed recreational lobster and crab trap fishery.
- The DoMF retaining the ability to extend these closures based on North Atlantic right whale sightings.
- A marking system that will differentiate the gear that may be lawfully used in Massachusetts from heavier gear that may be used in the offshore exclusive economic zone or Canada.

I strongly encourage the DoMF to develop a plan for a full transition to ropeless technology in commercial trap fisheries as quickly and responsibly as possible. Removing vertical lines from the water is the only way to fully prevent entanglements and save this species.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

Kathy Vadnais  
101 Providence St  
Chicopee, MA 01020

**From:** [Tatiana Marshall](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please help protect critically endangered right whales in Massachusetts waters  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 10:50:10 AM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Massachusetts can be a leader in the fight to save the North Atlantic right whale.

With less than 400 individuals remaining, the North Atlantic right whale is one of the most critically endangered marine animals in the world. Entanglement in fishing gear and collisions with ships are pushing the species towards extinction. We must take strong action today before it's too late to save them.

North Atlantic right whales migrating through the waters of the East Coast must navigate a maze of deadly vertical rope. Ropeless fishing gear can be the solution that we need to save right whales and keep fishermen on the water.

cc: Director Daniel McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA  
02114

**From:** [Christine Elie](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Entanglements  
**Date:** Monday, December 7, 2020 9:37:52 PM

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I studied Marine Biology and now I'm a nurse. Every animal is part of an eco system...right whales are dying! Entanglements must be addressed! One entanglement is too many!

Christine Elie

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [whiteowl1@comcast.net](mailto:whiteowl1@comcast.net)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Monday, December 7, 2020 5:08:15 PM

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Dear Director McKiernan:

As a concerned Massachusetts resident, I fear the North Atlantic right whale may go extinct in my lifetime. North Atlantic right whales are dying due to human actions. The DoMF, alongside NOAA, has the opportunity to make the necessary changes to save this species. I am glad to see our commonwealth is taking necessary steps to ensure the protection and survival of right whales by proposing new regulations for commercial fixed gear fisheries and recreational lobster and crab trap fisheries. Some of the changes I support include:

- Expanded closures for trap fisheries in all of Massachusetts waters.
- A new closed season for the buoyed recreational lobster and crab trap fishery.
- The DoMF retaining the ability to extend these closures based on North Atlantic right whale sightings.
- A marking system that will differentiate the gear that may be lawfully used in Massachusetts from heavier gear that may be used in the offshore exclusive economic zone or Canada.

I strongly encourage the DoMF to develop a plan for a full transition to ropeless technology in commercial trap fisheries as quickly and responsibly as possible. Removing vertical lines from the water is the only way to fully prevent entanglements and save this species.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Faith-Smith  
290A Washington Street  
Cambridge, MA 02139

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [Lisi Brown](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Monday, December 7, 2020 3:26:23 PM

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Dear Director McKiernan:

As a concerned Massachusetts resident, I fear the North Atlantic right whale may go extinct in my lifetime. North Atlantic right whales are dying due to human actions. The DoMF, alongside NOAA, has the opportunity to make the necessary changes to save this species. I am glad to see our commonwealth is taking necessary steps to ensure the protection and survival of right whales by proposing new regulations for commercial fixed gear fisheries and recreational lobster and crab trap fisheries. Some of the changes I support include:

- Expanded closures for trap fisheries in all of Massachusetts waters.
- A new closed season for the buoyed recreational lobster and crab trap fishery.
- The DoMF retaining the ability to extend these closures based on North Atlantic right whale sightings.
- A marking system that will differentiate the gear that may be lawfully used in Massachusetts from heavier gear that may be used in the offshore exclusive economic zone or Canada.

I strongly encourage the DoMF to develop a plan for a full transition to ropeless technology in commercial trap fisheries as quickly and responsibly as possible. Removing vertical lines from the water is the only way to fully prevent entanglements and save this species.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

Lisi Brown  
79 Newhall Street  
Lynn, MA 01902

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [Alanna Kelly](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Monday, December 7, 2020 9:34:29 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Director McKiernan:

As a concerned Massachusetts resident, I fear the North Atlantic right whale may go extinct in my lifetime. North Atlantic right whales are dying due to human actions. The DoMF, alongside NOAA, has the opportunity to make the necessary changes to save this species. I am glad to see our commonwealth is taking necessary steps to ensure the protection and survival of right whales by proposing new regulations for commercial fixed gear fisheries and recreational lobster and crab trap fisheries. Some of the changes I support include:

- Expanded closures for trap fisheries in all of Massachusetts waters.
- A new closed season for the buoyed recreational lobster and crab trap fishery.
- The DoMF retaining the ability to extend these closures based on North Atlantic right whale sightings.
- A marking system that will differentiate the gear that may be lawfully used in Massachusetts from heavier gear that may be used in the offshore exclusive economic zone or Canada.

I strongly encourage the DoMF to develop a plan for a full transition to ropeless technology in commercial trap fisheries as quickly and responsibly as possible. Removing vertical lines from the water is the only way to fully prevent entanglements and save this species.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

Alanna Kelly  
153 Theodore Parker Road  
Boston, MA 02132

Judith Embry  
51 Blackstone Rd  
Florida, MA 01247

Daniel J. McKiernan  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400, Boston, MA 02114

Dear Director McKiernan:

As a concerned Massachusetts resident, I fear the North Atlantic right whale may go extinct in my lifetime. North

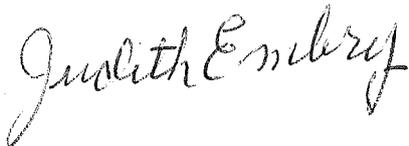
- Expanded closures for trap fisheries in all of Massachusetts waters.
- A new closed season for the buoyed recreational lobster and crab trap fishery.
- The DoMF retaining the ability to extend these closures based on North Atlantic right whale sightings.
- A marking system that will differentiate the gear that may be lawfully used in Massachusetts from heavier gear

I strongly encourage the DoMF to develop a plan for a full transition to ropeless technology in commercial trap f

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my h

Sincerely,

Judith Embry



November 30, 2020

Division of Marine Fisheries  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston MA 02114

Attention:  
Daniel McKiernan

Dear Mr. McKiernan,

Re: Recreational Lobster and Crab Trap Gear Haul-Out Season

I am writing to protest the late opening of the recreational lobster season.

I spent many years as a commercial fisherman on Martha's Vineyard and have fished for lobsters recreationally for fifty years in the waters around the north shore of the island, as well as in the Nomans Island area. As a rule, I begin fishing my ten traps in early April and haul out in late August or early September when the lobsters become scarce and the autumn storms ramp up. I have found that the fishing in April is far better than anything past the first of September.

I don't believe that all Commonwealth waters need to be treated the same. In all the years that I have been fishing, I have never seen a whale of any kind in 15 to 20 feet of water, close to shore, where my traps are located.

If you must set haul-out dates, I urge you to consider setting the closed season dates to September 15 to April 15. The April 15 date is close to the existing Large Whale Seasonal Trap Gear Closure opening. The September 15 date is beyond the date that most recreational fishermen have hauled out and it accomplishes the goal of allowing time to identify and remove abandoned gear.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,



David B. Tilton Sr

**From:** [david walker](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 8:34:03 AM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Mass Fish,

Per whale and dolphin conservation there is an alarm at the gate!

- \* Fewer than 360 Right Whales remain
- \* 26 whales have died since 4/17
- \* The species is in decline
- \* No calves were reported during the 2018 calving seasons
- \* The leading cause of death are entanglements in fishing gear and vessel strikes

The recovery of large whales is one of the key elements to combating climate change and saving our children's future. Emerging research has shown that whales act as ecosystem engineers and provide much needed nutrients to phytoplankton. Phytoplankton creates at least 50% of our oxygen. Whales also sequester hundreds of thousands of tons of carbon and provide base for the marine food web leading to abundant fish stock.

We have a moral obligation to leave this planet in better condition for future generations.

Sincerely,  
David

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Caroline Pinsky](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Right Whales  
**Date:** Monday, December 7, 2020 9:03:46 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To Whom it May Concern:

I am a veterinarian living and practicing in Massachusetts and I spend a couple weeks each summer vacationing on Cape Cod with my husband and 3 kids. Each year we head out of Provincetown on a whale watch with the Center for Coastal Studies and we become thoroughly captivated by the whales and their peaceful beauty. We are deeply concerned about increasing protection for right whales in particular because their numbers are declining. I want my children to be able to bring their own children to see the whales some day.

So I am writing to express our family's deep concern about the proposed draft regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are ship strikes and entanglements: no right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled twice or more. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining. Right whales could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.  
Caroline Pinsky  
George Conlow  
Elliot Conlow  
Simon Conlow  
Hazel Conlow

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Kristen Elmes](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Right Whales  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 6:53:07 AM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning-

As a teacher, I am always looking for a way to grow and learn. I have an especially fond memory of working with my nephew on a "research" project. He was 11 at the time and had been assigned the task of learning about a species of concern. He had chosen the Right Whale.

As I recall, we connected with work that was being led by the New England Aquarium. He was excited by the prospect of emailing questions to them.

Since I was a very small part of his project, I do not know what became of his effort. But I do know that his excitement was genuine- to have found an organization that was working to help the Right Whale; to protect the population and educate a population.

Now, more than a decade later, my home state of Massachusetts has the same opportunity- to right a terrible wrong- entangled Right Whales.

In my nephew's lifetime, in only a decade, we have LOST more whales, then gained.

Please.

Right this wrong!

Use your common sense-

The Right Whale is our collective responsibility generation to generation.

Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Kristen Elmes  
Ashfield, MA

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Rebecca Wish](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save Right Whales  
**Date:** Monday, December 7, 2020 9:50:57 PM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear DMF People,

We don't have much time to save the right whales unless we address the issue of entanglements, the leading cause of their deaths.

Please let's get as much rope out of the water as we can.

Please consider this issue in your draft regulations. We must figure out a quick path to ropeless gear as soon as possible!

We have no time to waste to save the right whales.

Sincerely,

Rebecca

Rebecca Wish Esche  
30 Lime St  
Newburyport, MA 01950-2918

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Andy Berkvist](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 9:31:21 AM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed draft regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are ship strikes and entanglements: no right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled twice or more. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining. Right whales could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Andy Berkvist  
Northampton, MA 01060

**From:** [Brian Yurasits](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 9:28:07 AM

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Brian Yurasits  
Portsmouth, NH 3801

**From:** [Margot Madden](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 9:22:33 AM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed draft regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Margot Madden  
Sparks Glencoe, MD 21152

**From:** [Patricia Walsh](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 9:18:21 AM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed draft regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Patricia Walsh  
North Truro, MA 02652

**From:** [Barbara Fournier](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 9:15:49 AM

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Barbara Fournier  
Milton, MA 02186

**From:** [Licia Fields](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 9:35:17 AM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Licia Fields  
Brewster, MA 02631

**From:** [Collin Cheng](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** URGENT: Hearing on Draft Regulations  
**Date:** Monday, December 7, 2020 6:40:06 PM

---

**CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

For the Division's consideration as a public comment,

As a Newton Wellesley baby, I've always taken pride in my Massachusetts heritage, given the Commonwealth's efforts to lead the way in respecting the dignity and lives of all. Yet these efforts are threatened with the current draft regulations proposed by the Division of Marine Fisheries today. I am writing to express my concern about the proposed draft regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are ship strikes and entanglements: no right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Best,

Collin Cheng  
International Affairs Candidate at the Elliott School of International Affairs, Washington D.C

**From:** [Eileen](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** 322 CMR 12.06 Opposition  
**Date:** Saturday, December 5, 2020 4:12:27 PM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To Daniel McKiernan,

We oppose the proposed regulation changes 322 CMR 12.06; that would restrict single lobster trap fishing by vessels 29 ft or larger. Many responsible captains on Cape Cod would be put out of business.

Also right whales are not present in Cape Cod Bay during lobstering season as shown by aerial imaging.

Keep these Cape Cod families in business please.

Sincerely,

Eileen and Steve Hall  
Dennis, MA

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Kathy L](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Atlantic Rt Whale Hearing  
**Date:** Saturday, December 5, 2020 1:47:33 PM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

As caretakers of our planet, we have a social and moral responsibility to maintain and preserve it. Whales play an essential part in the sustaining and preserving of our environment and all its species, including humans. Whales provide at least half of the oxygen we breathe. They combat climate change by cycling carbon from the atmosphere and they sustain fish stocks to name a few. Whales' importance cannot be overstated. With about 400 right whales left in existence, time is of the essence to act now to save the species. Please help save the Atlantic Right Whales. They are our future

**From:** [Sarah Roughneen](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Attention - Director Daniel McKiernan  
**Date:** Saturday, December 5, 2020 1:56:21 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I oppose the proposal which would prohibit fishing single Lobster Traps for Vessels of a Certain Size (29 feet or larger) (322 CMR 12.06).

It is not right to force someone out of the fishery because the size of the boat they fish on is a few feet longer than the boats fishing around them. Further, there are no right whales in Cape Cod Bay during the open lobster season (aerial surveys prove this). This proposal makes no sense for this area.

Sincerely,

Sarah L. Roughneen  
Dennis, MA

**From:** [G Speeth](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Attention: Director Daniel McKiernan; re New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 3:51:43 PM

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**CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

Dear Director McKiernan,

The proposed regulations are insufficient and do not completely address the issue of entanglements, the leading cause of right whale deaths. 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once in their lives, and over half of the population has been entangled more than once. This is horrifying, and should not be allowed to continue.

We need to get rope out of the water as soon as possible. Ropeless fishing gear can help solve the problem of right whale entanglements, while helping the fishing industry thrive. A pathway towards advancing ropeless gear permitting is currently not being considered by DMF in its draft regulations. I urge you to address this issue in the finalization of the regulations now under consideration for final approval.

Respectfully,  
Gwendolyn Speeth  
Cambridge, MA

**From:** [Robert Sloane](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Attn: D. McKiernan New Right Whale Conservation Measures  
**Date:** Monday, November 16, 2020 7:16:48 AM  
**Attachments:** [Whale Regulations.docx](#)

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**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Attached you will find my comments.

Thanks,  
Bob Sloane

**From:** [DAVID DEMSKI](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** closure  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 2:52:25 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

My name is David Demski permit number 007023 fished area 2 for years full time only job. I have supported a closure for years to give eco system a rest and get lost gear retrieved from the bottom more importantly get traps without tags confiscated. I question how you will enforce this??? Fisherman will use short lines, small bouys and haul at slack tide most do this now in Gosnold and fish 2 miles from shore instead of three and law has never really been done. The EPO'S have a huge hurdle to cross cause lots of area to cover in the state especially in winter with little man power/knowledge.

**From:** [Danielle M](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Daniel McKiernan  
**Date:** Saturday, December 5, 2020 7:27:06 PM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Director Daniel McKiernan,

I oppose the proposal that would prohibit fishing single Lobster Traps for Vessels of 29 feet or larger (322 CMR 12.06). If the captain fishes alone, setting trawls by himself, it would be too dangerous and labor intensive. This rule is senseless as there are no right whales in the bay during the summer lobster season which starts in the spring after the state has performed aerial surveys and determined that the right whales have left the bay to continue their northern migration to Canada. The right whale entanglements that everyone wants to eliminate occur primarily in the offshore fisheries between Florida and Canada with the Canadian snow crab fishery being a known problem. It isn't right to force someone out of the fishery just because the size of the boat they fish on is a few feet longer than the boats fishing around them. There are no right whales in Cape Cod Bay during the open lobster season (aerial surveys prove this) so this proposal makes no sense for this area.

Thank you,  
Dan and Danielle Marquardt  
120 Shore Drive, Dennis, Ma

**From:** [Davis, Shannon \(FWE\)](#)  
**To:** [Silva, Jared \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: 322 CMR 6.02  
**Date:** Friday, November 20, 2020 11:33:03 AM

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**From:** M <matthewquail@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 20, 2020 10:49 AM  
**To:** Fish, Marine (FWE) <marine.fish@mass.gov>  
**Subject:** 322 CMR 6.02

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Daniel

I am a recreational fisherman that is on the water as early as possible in the Spring and one of the last boats to pull out in the Fall. One of the things I love the most about early season boating is that Salem Sound is relatively uncrowded until Memorial Day weekend. And late season boating also has the benefits of limited crowds.

I am against proposal 322 CMR 6.02 that will limit my ability to set my lobster traps in Salem Sound.

I understand the need to clear lobster gear from areas frequented by right whales. But this proposal does not adequately address the areas frequented by right whales.

Thank you

Matthew

**From:** [Davis, Shannon \(FWE\)](#)  
**To:** [Silva, Jared \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: closure for recreational lobster fisheries  
**Date:** Monday, November 16, 2020 8:49:52 AM

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**From:** Don Wilkinson <donwilkinson70@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 14, 2020 9:15 AM  
**To:** Fish, Marine (FWE) <marine.fish@mass.gov>  
**Subject:** closure for recreational lobster fisheries

**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I oppose the restriction of recreational lobster fishing (322CMR 6.02) with the closure shortly after Columbus Day. If you wanted to make it coincide with Thanksgiving, that would be more acceptable. There is still active fishing time through October in inshore waters, and with the waters warming catch into mid November is occurring.

**From:** [Davis, Shannon \(FWE\)](#)  
**To:** [Silva, Jared \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Public Comment on New Protected Species Regulations  
**Date:** Monday, November 16, 2020 8:50:24 AM

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**From:** Randy Sigler <randy@striper.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 13, 2020 8:17 PM  
**To:** Fish, Marine (FWE) <marine.fish@mass.gov>  
**Subject:** Public Comment on New Protected Species Regulations

**CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

Dear Director McKiernan,

I am writing to submit my comment related to the new proposed regulations for protected species.

I understand the hardship that these new regulations may place on fixed gear fishermen, yet my understanding is that there are much harsher proposals out there for consideration. Given the federal requirements to protect endangered species, these regulations seem reasonable and a better alternative to some of the ideas being floated out there (including no vertical lines).

In terms of the impact to recreations fishermen like myself, mid-late October and early November is one of the best times we have for recreational lobstering. However, I am happy to absorb this limitation if it is believed that it will positively impact the goal of protecting endangered species.

Thank you for allowing this public comment, and an even larger thank you for the hard work and dedication that you and your entire staff offer towards protecting the amazing public resources all of us who enjoy and earn our living from.

Sincerely,

Randy Sigler  
Sigler Guide Service  
1 Peabody Ln  
Marblehead, MA 01945  
[www.Striper.com](http://www.Striper.com)  
[randy@striper.com](mailto:randy@striper.com)  
617-459-1798



**From:** [Nancy](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: Time is Running Out to Help Save Right Whales  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 5:31:26 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please do more to protect the whales!!!

We can't mess around - ropeless fishing gear now!!! Please

Nancy burger  
Haverhill Massachusetts

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** Ropeless for Right Whales <info@ropelessforrightwhales.com>  
**To:** Nancy-liane Burger <bmardigras@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 6, 2020, 03:15:37 PM EST  
**Subject:** Time is Running Out to Help Save Right Whales

There are less than 366 North Atlantic right whales left. Take action today to help save them.



**Help Us Save Right Whales in MA: Act NOW**

Image



## **Tell Massachusetts to Save Right Whales**

The Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries just released draft regulations to protect right whales that migrate off our coast. These proposed regulations are insufficient and do not completely address the issue of entanglements, the leading cause of right whale deaths. 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once in their lives, and over half of the population has been entangled more than once.

We need to get rope out of the water—and fast. Ropeless fishing gear can help solve the problem of right whale entanglements, while helping the fishing industry thrive. A pathway towards advancing ropeless gear permitting is currently not being considered by DMF in its draft regulations.

**The Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries is also accepting comments on the draft regulations until 12/18. Submit a comment to DMF today and share your thoughts. We don't have time to waste to save right whales.**

SEND COMMENTS

Image



Image



## Attend a Public Hearing

The right whale population is dwindling: scientists estimate that there are only 366 left.  
Now is the time to act.

**Sign up to attend a hearing and tell DMF that we need greater measures in order to save right whales from extinction.**

December 8, 2020 (6PM)

December 9, 2020 (6PM)

RSVP

Image



Copyright © 2020 Ropeless for Right Whales



Ropeless for Right Whales. PO Box 508 611 High Street, Dedham, MA 02027

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[Unsubscribe](#)

**From:** [Neal Melanson](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** I oppose a seasonal restriction on Recreational lobstering  
**Date:** Monday, November 16, 2020 10:34:01 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

As a subsistence lobster fisherman I strongly oppose a seasonal restriction on Recreational lobstering.

No logical argument can be made that curtailing the season for "recreational lobster fishing" can contribute to the protection of endangered Right Whales. While recreational lobstering can occur out to 3 miles me and other local families in my Northshore community NEVER fish that far out, but stay inside the local rivers and sounds.

I motion that you strike this idea from the proposed legislation

--

Neal Melanson  
89 Central St.  
Rowley Ma. 01969

978 948 7189

**From:** [MICHAEL FOLEY](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Is so important for us to save our whales in order to preserve them from being extinct.  
**Date:** Thursday, December 3, 2020 11:32:34 AM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [ELLEN KILLAM](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 2:07:16 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Director McKiernan:

As a concerned Massachusetts resident, I fear the North Atlantic right whale may go extinct in my lifetime. North Atlantic right whales are dying due to human actions. The DoMF, alongside NOAA, has the opportunity to make the necessary changes to save this species. I am glad to see our commonwealth is taking necessary steps to ensure the protection and survival of right whales by proposing new regulations for commercial fixed gear fisheries and recreational lobster and crab trap fisheries. Some of the changes I support include:

- Expanded closures for trap fisheries in all of Massachusetts waters.
- A new closed season for the buoyed recreational lobster and crab trap fishery.
- The DoMF retaining the ability to extend these closures based on North Atlantic right whale sightings.
- A marking system that will differentiate the gear that may be lawfully used in Massachusetts from heavier gear that may be used in the offshore exclusive economic zone or Canada.

I strongly encourage the DoMF to develop a plan for a full transition to ropeless technology in commercial trap fisheries as quickly and responsibly as possible. Removing vertical lines from the water is the only way to fully prevent entanglements and save this species.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

ELLEN KILLAM  
23 Broadleaf St  
Billerica, MA 01821

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [Jen McKusick](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 11:02:24 AM

---

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Dear Director McKiernan:

As a concerned Massachusetts resident, I fear the North Atlantic right whale may go extinct in my lifetime. North Atlantic right whales are dying due to human actions. The DoMF, alongside NOAA, has the opportunity to make the necessary changes to save this species. I am glad to see our commonwealth is taking necessary steps to ensure the protection and survival of right whales by proposing new regulations for commercial fixed gear fisheries and recreational lobster and crab trap fisheries. Some of the changes I support include:

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- A marking system that will differentiate the gear that may be lawfully used in Massachusetts from heavier gear that may be used in the offshore exclusive economic zone or Canada.

I strongly encourage the DoMF to develop a plan for a full transition to ropeless technology in commercial trap fisheries as quickly and responsibly as possible. Removing vertical lines from the water is the only way to fully prevent entanglements and save this species.

Mr. McKiernan, I do not know if you are a parent or not, but I implore you to think about what we are leaving for our next generation. I would like my grandchildren to be able to see and learn about all of the animals from my lifetime, not just read about how they used to exist when making things easier for business was more important than preserving our natural world. Please be courageous and stand up for saving our right whales, even if it is hard to do.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

Jen McKusick  
37 Ashuelot Rd  
Northfield, MA 01360

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [Jennifer Falcon](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Saturday, December 5, 2020 10:26:14 PM

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Dear Director McKiernan:

As a concerned Massachusetts resident, I fear the North Atlantic right whale may go extinct in my lifetime. North Atlantic right whales are dying due to human actions. The DoMF, alongside NOAA, has the opportunity to make the necessary changes to save this species. I am glad to see our commonwealth is taking necessary steps to ensure the protection and survival of right whales by proposing new regulations for commercial fixed gear fisheries and recreational lobster and crab trap fisheries. Some of the changes I support include:

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I strongly encourage the DoMF to develop a plan for a full transition to ropeless technology in commercial trap fisheries as quickly and responsibly as possible. Removing vertical lines from the water is the only way to fully prevent entanglements and save this species.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Falcon  
176 Lincoln Street, B3  
Worcester, MA 01605

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [jamoos@earthlink.net](mailto:jamoos@earthlink.net)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Saturday, December 5, 2020 3:07:27 PM

---

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Dear Director McKiernan:

As a concerned Massachusetts resident, I fear the North Atlantic right whale may go extinct in my lifetime. North Atlantic right whales are dying due to human actions. The DoMF, alongside NOAA, has the opportunity to make the necessary changes to save this species. I am glad to see our commonwealth is taking necessary steps to ensure the protection and survival of right whales by proposing new regulations for commercial fixed gear fisheries and recreational lobster and crab trap fisheries. Some of the changes I support include:

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I strongly encourage the DoMF to develop a plan for a full transition to ropeless technology in commercial trap fisheries as quickly and responsibly as possible. Removing vertical lines from the water is the only way to fully prevent entanglements and save this species.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

Jane Moosbruker  
40 Brewster Ln  
ACTON, MA 01720

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [backbaywoman@comcast.net](mailto:backbaywoman@comcast.net)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Saturday, December 5, 2020 3:04:27 PM

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Dear Director McKiernan:

As a concerned Massachusetts resident, I fear the North Atlantic right whale may go extinct in my lifetime. North Atlantic right whales are dying due to human actions. The DoMF, alongside NOAA, has the opportunity to make the necessary changes to save this species. I am glad to see our commonwealth is taking necessary steps to ensure the protection and survival of right whales by proposing new regulations for commercial fixed gear fisheries and recreational lobster and crab trap fisheries. Some of the changes I support include:

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I strongly encourage the DoMF to develop a plan for a full transition to ropeless technology in commercial trap fisheries as quickly and responsibly as possible. Removing vertical lines from the water is the only way to fully prevent entanglements and save this species.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

sheila larkin  
407 so huntington ave  
boston , MA 02130

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [Margaret McGinnis](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Saturday, December 5, 2020 11:39:20 AM

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Dear Director McKiernan:

As a concerned Massachusetts resident, I fear the North Atlantic right whale may go extinct in my lifetime. North Atlantic right whales are dying due to human actions. The DoMF, alongside NOAA, has the opportunity to make the necessary changes to save this species. I am glad to see our commonwealth is taking necessary steps to ensure the protection and survival of right whales by proposing new regulations for commercial fixed gear fisheries and recreational lobster and crab trap fisheries. Some of the changes I support include:

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- A marking system that will differentiate the gear that may be lawfully used in Massachusetts from heavier gear that may be used in the offshore exclusive economic zone or Canada.

I strongly encourage the DoMF to develop a plan for a full transition to ropeless technology in commercial trap fisheries as quickly and responsibly as possible. Removing vertical lines from the water is the only way to fully prevent entanglements and save this species.

I don't want these whales to head into extinction - every individual counts.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

Margaret McGinnis  
7 Rockview Rd  
Hull, MA 02045-3126

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [James Greene](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Saturday, December 5, 2020 10:24:17 AM

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Dear Director McKiernan:

As a concerned Massachusetts resident, I fear the North Atlantic right whale may go extinct in my lifetime. North Atlantic right whales are dying due to human actions. The DoMF, alongside NOAA, has the opportunity to make the necessary changes to save this species. I am glad to see our commonwealth is taking necessary steps to ensure the protection and survival of right whales by proposing new regulations for commercial fixed gear fisheries and recreational lobster and crab trap fisheries. Some of the changes I support include:

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I strongly encourage the DoMF to develop a plan for a full transition to ropeless technology in commercial trap fisheries as quickly and responsibly as possible. Removing vertical lines from the water is the only way to fully prevent entanglements and save this species.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

James Greene  
133 Governors Ave  
Medford, MA 02155

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [Gail Repensek](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Saturday, December 5, 2020 9:53:22 AM

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Dear Director McKiernan:

As a concerned Massachusetts resident, I fear the North Atlantic right whale may go extinct in my lifetime. North Atlantic right whales are dying due to human actions. The DoMF, alongside NOAA, has the opportunity to make the necessary changes to save this species. I am glad to see our commonwealth is taking necessary steps to ensure the protection and survival of right whales by proposing new regulations for commercial fixed gear fisheries and recreational lobster and crab trap fisheries. Some of the changes I support include:

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I strongly encourage the DoMF to develop a plan for a full transition to ropeless technology in commercial trap fisheries as quickly and responsibly as possible. Removing vertical lines from the water is the only way to fully prevent entanglements and save this species.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

Gail Repensek  
58 Crystal Street  
Haverhill , MA 01832

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [Janise Fitzpatrick](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Saturday, December 5, 2020 9:41:16 AM

---

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Dear Director McKiernan:

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I strongly encourage the DoMF to develop a plan for a full transition to ropeless technology in commercial trap fisheries as quickly and responsibly as possible. Removing vertical lines from the water is the only way to fully prevent entanglements and save this species.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

Janise Fitzpatrick  
30 Tucker lane  
Belchertown, MA 01007-9595

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [Kimberly Sheehan](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Saturday, December 5, 2020 4:40:21 AM

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Dear Director McKiernan:

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Sheehan  
896 Boston Road  
Billerica, MA 01821

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [lgray@umich.edu](mailto:lgray@umich.edu)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Friday, December 4, 2020 9:10:21 PM

---

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Dear Director McKiernan:

As a concerned Massachusetts resident, I fear the North Atlantic right whale may go extinct in my lifetime. North Atlantic right whales are dying due to human actions. The DoMF, alongside NOAA, has the opportunity to make the necessary changes to save this species. I am glad to see our commonwealth is taking necessary steps to ensure the protection and survival of right whales by proposing new regulations for commercial fixed gear fisheries and recreational lobster and crab trap fisheries. Some of the changes I support include:

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

Lorraine Gray  
16 Symmes Street, Apt. 3  
Roslindale, MA 02131

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [Kathleen Byrnes](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Friday, December 4, 2020 8:34:20 PM

---

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Dear Director McKiernan:

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Byrnes  
2 Cutler Rd  
Paxton, MA 01612

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [wpooh78@comcast.net](mailto:wpooh78@comcast.net)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Friday, December 4, 2020 7:20:17 PM

---

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Dear Director McKiernan:

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Santos  
50 Ginsburg Dr  
Tewksbury, MA 01876-2677

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [briangin54@comcast.net](mailto:briangin54@comcast.net)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Friday, December 4, 2020 5:23:28 PM

---

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Dear Director McKiernan:

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

Brian Gingras  
52 Bradford Commons Lane  
Braintree, MA 02184-8256

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [Barry Kesselman](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Friday, December 4, 2020 5:12:31 PM

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Dear Director McKiernan:

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

Barry Kesselman  
45 Crocker Rd  
4, MA 02155

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [Matthew Gaffey](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Friday, December 4, 2020 4:52:27 PM

---

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

Matthew Gaffey  
8 Harding Ave  
Adams, MA 01220-1407

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [Alexa Wall](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Friday, December 4, 2020 2:51:24 PM

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Dear Director McKiernan:

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

Alexa Wall  
23 Tanbark Road  
Marstons Mills , MA 02648

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [Lynn@psych.umass.edu](mailto:Lynn@psych.umass.edu)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Friday, December 4, 2020 1:32:20 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Director McKiernan:

As a concerned Massachusetts resident, I fear the North Atlantic right whale may go extinct in my lifetime. North Atlantic right whales are dying due to human actions. The DoMF, alongside NOAA, has the opportunity to make the necessary changes to save this species. I am glad to see our commonwealth is taking necessary steps to ensure the protection and survival of right whales by proposing new regulations for commercial fixed gear fisheries and recreational lobster and crab trap fisheries. Some of the changes I support include:

- Expanded closures for trap fisheries in all of Massachusetts waters.
- A new closed season for the buoyed recreational lobster and crab trap fishery.
- The DoMF retaining the ability to extend these closures based on North Atlantic right whale sightings.
- A marking system that will differentiate the gear that may be lawfully used in Massachusetts from heavier gear that may be used in the offshore exclusive economic zone or Canada.

I strongly encourage the DoMF to develop a plan for a full transition to ropeless technology in commercial trap fisheries as quickly and responsibly as possible. Removing vertical lines from the water is the only way to fully prevent entanglements and save this species.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

Lynn Bengston  
37 North St  
Belchertown, MA 01007

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [Amy McCoy](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Friday, December 4, 2020 1:25:20 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Director McKiernan:

As a concerned Massachusetts resident, I fear the North Atlantic right whale may go extinct in my lifetime. North Atlantic right whales are dying due to human actions. The DoMF, alongside NOAA, has the opportunity to make the necessary changes to save this species. I am glad to see our commonwealth is taking necessary steps to ensure the protection and survival of right whales by proposing new regulations for commercial fixed gear fisheries and recreational lobster and crab trap fisheries. Some of the changes I support include:

- Expanded closures for trap fisheries in all of Massachusetts waters.
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- A marking system that will differentiate the gear that may be lawfully used in Massachusetts from heavier gear that may be used in the offshore exclusive economic zone or Canada.

I strongly encourage the DoMF to develop a plan for a full transition to ropeless technology in commercial trap fisheries as quickly and responsibly as possible. Removing vertical lines from the water is the only way to fully prevent entanglements and save this species.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

Amy McCoy  
280 Colrain Shelburne Road  
Shelburne Falls, MA 01370-9671

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [Michael Stuart](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Friday, December 4, 2020 1:09:19 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Director McKiernan:

As a concerned Massachusetts resident, I fear the North Atlantic right whale may go extinct in my lifetime. North Atlantic right whales are dying due to human actions. The DoMF, alongside NOAA, has the opportunity to make the necessary changes to save this species. I am glad to see our commonwealth is taking necessary steps to ensure the protection and survival of right whales by proposing new regulations for commercial fixed gear fisheries and recreational lobster and crab trap fisheries. Some of the changes I support include:

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- A marking system that will differentiate the gear that may be lawfully used in Massachusetts from heavier gear that may be used in the offshore exclusive economic zone or Canada.

I strongly encourage the DoMF to develop a plan for a full transition to ropeless technology in commercial trap fisheries as quickly and responsibly as possible. Removing vertical lines from the water is the only way to fully prevent entanglements and save this species.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

Michael Stuart  
11 Arlington Street  
Auburn, MA 01501-2637

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [Karen Wright](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Friday, December 4, 2020 1:00:19 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Director McKiernan:

As a concerned Massachusetts resident, I fear the North Atlantic right whale may go extinct in my lifetime. North Atlantic right whales are dying due to human actions. The DoMF, alongside NOAA, has the opportunity to make the necessary changes to save this species. I am glad to see our commonwealth is taking necessary steps to ensure the protection and survival of right whales by proposing new regulations for commercial fixed gear fisheries and recreational lobster and crab trap fisheries. Some of the changes I support include:

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- The DoMF retaining the ability to extend these closures based on North Atlantic right whale sightings.
- A marking system that will differentiate the gear that may be lawfully used in Massachusetts from heavier gear that may be used in the offshore exclusive economic zone or Canada.

I strongly encourage the DoMF to develop a plan for a full transition to ropeless technology in commercial trap fisheries as quickly and responsibly as possible. Removing vertical lines from the water is the only way to fully prevent entanglements and save this species.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

Karen Wright  
15 Normandy Rd  
Framingham, MA 01702-2301

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [asm@amysophia.com](mailto:asm@amysophia.com)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Friday, December 4, 2020 12:44:18 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Director McKiernan:

As a concerned Massachusetts resident, I fear the North Atlantic right whale may go extinct in my lifetime. North Atlantic right whales are dying due to human actions. The DoMF, alongside NOAA, has the opportunity to make the necessary changes to save this species. I am glad to see our commonwealth is taking necessary steps to ensure the protection and survival of right whales by proposing new regulations for commercial fixed gear fisheries and recreational lobster and crab trap fisheries. Some of the changes I support include:

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- The DoMF retaining the ability to extend these closures based on North Atlantic right whale sightings.
- A marking system that will differentiate the gear that may be lawfully used in Massachusetts from heavier gear that may be used in the offshore exclusive economic zone or Canada.

I strongly encourage the DoMF to develop a plan for a full transition to ropeless technology in commercial trap fisheries as quickly and responsibly as possible. Removing vertical lines from the water is the only way to fully prevent entanglements and save this species.

Keep the North Atlantic right whale from going extinct.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

Amy Sophia Marashinsky  
89 Pine Grove  
Amherst, MA 01002-2740

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [Lonny LaChapelle](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Friday, December 4, 2020 12:40:18 PM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Director McKiernan:

As a concerned Massachusetts resident, I fear the North Atlantic right whale may go extinct in my lifetime. North Atlantic right whales are dying due to human actions. The DoMF, alongside NOAA, has the opportunity to make the necessary changes to save this species. I am glad to see our commonwealth is taking necessary steps to ensure the protection and survival of right whales by proposing new regulations for commercial fixed gear fisheries and recreational lobster and crab trap fisheries. Some of the changes I support include:

- Expanded closures for trap fisheries in all of Massachusetts waters.
- A new closed season for the buoyed recreational lobster and crab trap fishery.
- The DoMF retaining the ability to extend these closures based on North Atlantic right whale sightings.
- A marking system that will differentiate the gear that may be lawfully used in Massachusetts from heavier gear that may be used in the offshore exclusive economic zone or Canada.

I strongly encourage the DoMF to develop a plan for a full transition to ropeless technology in commercial trap fisheries as quickly and responsibly as possible. Removing vertical lines from the water is the only way to fully prevent entanglements and save this species.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

Lonny LaChapelle  
42r chapel street  
Westfield, MA 01085-3010

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [Eileen Hennessy](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Friday, December 4, 2020 11:22:30 AM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Director McKiernan:

As a concerned Massachusetts resident, I fear the North Atlantic right whale may go extinct in my lifetime. North Atlantic right whales are dying due to human actions. The DoMF, alongside NOAA, has the opportunity to make the necessary changes to save this species. I am glad to see our commonwealth is taking necessary steps to ensure the protection and survival of right whales by proposing new regulations for commercial fixed gear fisheries and recreational lobster and crab trap fisheries. Some of the changes I support include:

- Expanded closures for trap fisheries in all of Massachusetts waters.
- A new closed season for the buoyed recreational lobster and crab trap fishery.
- The DoMF retaining the ability to extend these closures based on North Atlantic right whale sightings.
- A marking system that will differentiate the gear that may be lawfully used in Massachusetts from heavier gear that may be used in the offshore exclusive economic zone or Canada.

I strongly encourage the DoMF to develop a plan for a full transition to ropeless technology in commercial trap fisheries as quickly and responsibly as possible. Removing vertical lines from the water is the only way to fully prevent entanglements and save this species.

Human-caused injuries and death are taking their toll on already declining populations, pushing these irreplaceable animals closer to extinction.

A mere 411 or so critically endangered North Atlantic right whales remain on our planet. It is of paramount importance that we do everything in our power to ensure the future survival of these majestic beings before it is too late.

Therefore, I call on you to support any and all legislation that will enhance protections for the North Atlantic right whale and ensure their continued presence in Massachusetts waters.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

Eileen Hennessy  
39 Berwick St.  
Melrose, MA 02176

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [Daniel Belachew](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Friday, December 4, 2020 11:10:15 AM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Director McKiernan:

As a concerned Massachusetts resident, I fear the North Atlantic right whale may go extinct in my lifetime. North Atlantic right whales are dying due to human actions. The DoMF, alongside NOAA, has the opportunity to make the necessary changes to save this species. I am glad to see our commonwealth is taking necessary steps to ensure the protection and survival of right whales by proposing new regulations for commercial fixed gear fisheries and recreational lobster and crab trap fisheries. Some of the changes I support include:

- Expanded closures for trap fisheries in all of Massachusetts waters.
- A new closed season for the buoyed recreational lobster and crab trap fishery.
- The DoMF retaining the ability to extend these closures based on North Atlantic right whale sightings.
- A marking system that will differentiate the gear that may be lawfully used in Massachusetts from heavier gear that may be used in the offshore exclusive economic zone or Canada.

I strongly encourage the DoMF to develop a plan for a full transition to ropeless technology in commercial trap fisheries as quickly and responsibly as possible. Removing vertical lines from the water is the only way to fully prevent entanglements and save this species.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

Daniel Belachew  
392 Washington Street #2  
Norwood, MA 02062

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [b.coniglio](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Friday, December 4, 2020 11:07:14 AM

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Dear Director McKiernan:

As a concerned Massachusetts resident, I fear the North Atlantic right whale may go extinct in my lifetime. North Atlantic right whales are dying due to human actions. The DoMF, alongside NOAA, has the opportunity to make the necessary changes to save this species. I am glad to see our commonwealth is taking necessary steps to ensure the protection and survival of right whales by proposing new regulations for commercial fixed gear fisheries and recreational lobster and crab trap fisheries. Some of the changes I support include:

- Expanded closures for trap fisheries in all of Massachusetts waters.
- A new closed season for the buoyed recreational lobster and crab trap fishery.
- The DoMF retaining the ability to extend these closures based on North Atlantic right whale sightings.
- A marking system that will differentiate the gear that may be lawfully used in Massachusetts from heavier gear that may be used in the offshore exclusive economic zone or Canada.

I strongly encourage the DoMF to develop a plan for a full transition to ropeless technology in commercial trap fisheries as quickly and responsibly as possible. Removing vertical lines from the water is the only way to fully prevent entanglements and save this species.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

b coniglio  
P.O. Box 281  
Boston, MA 02117-0281

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [Danya Kuperstein](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Friday, December 4, 2020 11:04:30 AM

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Dear Director McKiernan:

As a concerned Massachusetts resident, I fear the North Atlantic right whale may go extinct in my lifetime. North Atlantic right whales are dying due to human actions. The DoMF, alongside NOAA, has the opportunity to make the necessary changes to save this species. I am glad to see our commonwealth is taking necessary steps to ensure the protection and survival of right whales by proposing new regulations for commercial fixed gear fisheries and recreational lobster and crab trap fisheries. Some of the changes I support include:

- Expanded closures for trap fisheries in all of Massachusetts waters.
- A new closed season for the buoyed recreational lobster and crab trap fishery.
- The DoMF retaining the ability to extend these closures based on North Atlantic right whale sightings.
- A marking system that will differentiate the gear that may be lawfully used in Massachusetts from heavier gear that may be used in the offshore exclusive economic zone or Canada.

I strongly encourage the DoMF to develop a plan for a full transition to ropeless technology in commercial trap fisheries as quickly and responsibly as possible. Removing vertical lines from the water is the only way to fully prevent entanglements and save this species.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

Danya Kuperstein  
448 Wethersfield st  
Rowley , MA 01969

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [Seamus Levine-Lukas](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Friday, December 4, 2020 11:02:31 AM

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Dear Director McKiernan:

As a concerned Massachusetts resident, I fear the North Atlantic right whale may go extinct in my lifetime. North Atlantic right whales are dying due to human actions. The DoMF, alongside NOAA, has the opportunity to make the necessary changes to save this species. I am glad to see our commonwealth is taking necessary steps to ensure the protection and survival of right whales by proposing new regulations for commercial fixed gear fisheries and recreational lobster and crab trap fisheries. Some of the changes I support include:

- Expanded closures for trap fisheries in all of Massachusetts waters.
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- The DoMF retaining the ability to extend these closures based on North Atlantic right whale sightings.
- A marking system that will differentiate the gear that may be lawfully used in Massachusetts from heavier gear that may be used in the offshore exclusive economic zone or Canada.

I strongly encourage the DoMF to develop a plan for a full transition to ropeless technology in commercial trap fisheries as quickly and responsibly as possible. Removing vertical lines from the water is the only way to fully prevent entanglements and save this species.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

Seamus Levine-Lukas  
33 Sleigh Road  
Chelmsford, MA 01824

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [linda lewison](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Friday, December 4, 2020 9:58:27 AM

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Dear Director McKiernan:

As a concerned Massachusetts resident, I fear the North Atlantic right whale may go extinct in my lifetime. North Atlantic right whales are dying due to human actions. The DoMF, alongside NOAA, has the opportunity to make the necessary changes to save this species. I am glad to see our commonwealth is taking necessary steps to ensure the protection and survival of right whales by proposing new regulations for commercial fixed gear fisheries and recreational lobster and crab trap fisheries. Some of the changes I support include:

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- ? The DoMF retaining the ability to extend these closures based on North Atlantic right whale sightings.
- ? A marking system that will differentiate the gear that may be lawfully used in Massachusetts from heavier gear that may be used in the offshore exclusive economic zone or Canada.

I strongly encourage the DoMF to develop a plan for a full transition to ropeless technology in commercial trap fisheries as quickly and responsibly as possible. Removing vertical lines from the water is the only way to fully prevent entanglements and save this species.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

linda lewison  
79 boardley rd  
sandwich, MA 02563

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [Stephanie Caruso](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Friday, December 4, 2020 9:56:27 AM

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Dear Director McKiernan:

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- ? The DoMF retaining the ability to extend these closures based on North Atlantic right whale sightings.
- ? A marking system that will differentiate the gear that may be lawfully used in Massachusetts from heavier gear that may be used in the offshore exclusive economic zone or Canada.

I strongly encourage the DoMF to develop a plan for a full transition to ropeless technology in commercial trap fisheries as quickly and responsibly as possible. Removing vertical lines from the water is the only way to fully prevent entanglements and save this species.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Caruso  
196 Ayer Rd  
Harvard, MA 01451-1167

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [Susan Bortolussi](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Friday, December 4, 2020 9:55:27 AM

---

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Dear Director McKiernan:

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- ? The DoMF retaining the ability to extend these closures based on North Atlantic right whale sightings.
- ? A marking system that will differentiate the gear that may be lawfully used in Massachusetts from heavier gear that may be used in the offshore exclusive economic zone or Canada.

I strongly encourage the DoMF to develop a plan for a full transition to ropeless technology in commercial trap fisheries as quickly and responsibly as possible. Removing vertical lines from the water is the only way to fully prevent entanglements and save this species.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

Susan Bortolussi  
16 Jaeger Dr  
Westfield, MA 01085-5120

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [Richard D'Apollo](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Friday, December 4, 2020 9:50:27 AM

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Dear Director McKiernan:

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- ? The DoMF retaining the ability to extend these closures based on North Atlantic right whale sightings.
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I strongly encourage the DoMF to develop a plan for a full transition to ropeless technology in commercial trap fisheries as quickly and responsibly as possible. Removing vertical lines from the water is the only way to fully prevent entanglements and save this species.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

Richard D'Apollo  
48206 Carousel Ln  
Lunenburg, MA 01462-2453

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [Julia French](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Friday, December 4, 2020 9:33:27 AM

---

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Dear Director McKiernan:

As a concerned Massachusetts resident, I fear the North Atlantic right whale may go extinct in my lifetime. North Atlantic right whales are dying due to human actions. The DoMF, alongside NOAA, has the opportunity to make the necessary changes to save this species. I am glad to see our commonwealth is taking necessary steps to ensure the protection and survival of right whales by proposing new regulations for commercial fixed gear fisheries and recreational lobster and crab trap fisheries. Some of the changes I support include:

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- ? The DoMF retaining the ability to extend these closures based on North Atlantic right whale sightings.
- ? A marking system that will differentiate the gear that may be lawfully used in Massachusetts from heavier gear that may be used in the offshore exclusive economic zone or Canada.

I strongly encourage the DoMF to develop a plan for a full transition to ropeless technology in commercial trap fisheries as quickly and responsibly as possible. Removing vertical lines from the water is the only way to fully prevent entanglements and save this species.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

Julia French  
4 Chapel St  
Norwood, MA 02062

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [Casey Cochran](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Friday, December 4, 2020 9:15:27 AM

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Dear Director McKiernan:

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- ? A marking system that will differentiate the gear that may be lawfully used in Massachusetts from heavier gear that may be used in the offshore exclusive economic zone or Canada.

I strongly encourage the DoMF to develop a plan for a full transition to ropeless technology in commercial trap fisheries as quickly and responsibly as possible. Removing vertical lines from the water is the only way to fully prevent entanglements and save this species.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

Casey Cochran  
337 HAVERHILL ST  
North Reading, MA 01864-1450

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [Kathleen McHendry](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Friday, December 4, 2020 8:45:26 AM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Director McKiernan:

As a concerned Massachusetts resident, I fear the North Atlantic right whale may go extinct in my lifetime. North Atlantic right whales are dying due to human actions. The DoMF, alongside NOAA, has the opportunity to make the necessary changes to save this species. I am glad to see our commonwealth is taking necessary steps to ensure the protection and survival of right whales by proposing new regulations for commercial fixed gear fisheries and recreational lobster and crab trap fisheries. Some of the changes I support include:

- ? Expanded closures for trap fisheries in all of Massachusetts waters.
- ? A new closed season for the buoyed recreational lobster and crab trap fishery.
- ? The DoMF retaining the ability to extend these closures based on North Atlantic right whale sightings.
- ? A marking system that will differentiate the gear that may be lawfully used in Massachusetts from heavier gear that may be used in the offshore exclusive economic zone or Canada.

I strongly encourage the DoMF to develop a plan for a full transition to ropeless technology in commercial trap fisheries as quickly and responsibly as possible. Removing vertical lines from the water is the only way to fully prevent entanglements and save this species.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

Kathleen McHendry  
281 Chauncey Walker Lot 105  
Belchertown, MA 01007

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [kmoore@abschools.org](mailto:kmoore@abschools.org)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Friday, December 4, 2020 8:36:19 AM

---

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Dear Director McKiernan:

As a concerned Massachusetts resident, I fear the North Atlantic right whale may go extinct in my lifetime. North Atlantic right whales are dying due to human actions. The DoMF, alongside NOAA, has the opportunity to make the necessary changes to save this species. I am glad to see our commonwealth is taking necessary steps to ensure the protection and survival of right whales by proposing new regulations for commercial fixed gear fisheries and recreational lobster and crab trap fisheries. Some of the changes I support include:

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- ? The DoMF retaining the ability to extend these closures based on North Atlantic right whale sightings.
- ? A marking system that will differentiate the gear that may be lawfully used in Massachusetts from heavier gear that may be used in the offshore exclusive economic zone or Canada.

I strongly encourage the DoMF to develop a plan for a full transition to ropeless technology in commercial trap fisheries as quickly and responsibly as possible. Removing vertical lines from the water is the only way to fully prevent entanglements and save this species.

We are now at a critical crossroad. We know the extreme state of vulnerability of the North Atlantic right whale species is in. We can not ignore the problems they face any longer. We are responsible for the tremendous decline in their populations and we have the ability to put plans in place to protect these whales. We have a moral and ethical responsibility as well.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

Karen Moore  
36 Charter Road  
Acton, MA 01720-2931

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [Beth Ross](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Friday, December 4, 2020 5:55:27 AM

---

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Dear Director McKiernan:

As a concerned Massachusetts resident, I fear the North Atlantic right whale may go extinct in my lifetime. North Atlantic right whales are dying due to human actions. The DoMF, alongside NOAA, has the opportunity to make the necessary changes to save this species. I am glad to see our commonwealth is taking necessary steps to ensure the protection and survival of right whales by proposing new regulations for commercial fixed gear fisheries and recreational lobster and crab trap fisheries. Some of the changes I support include:

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I strongly encourage the DoMF to develop a plan for a full transition to ropeless technology in commercial trap fisheries as quickly and responsibly as possible. Removing vertical lines from the water is the only way to fully prevent entanglements and save this species.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

Beth Ross  
28 High St  
Beverly, MA 01915-2163

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [Beth Ross](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Friday, December 4, 2020 5:54:29 AM

---

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Dear Director McKiernan:

As a concerned Massachusetts resident, I fear the North Atlantic right whale may go extinct in my lifetime. North Atlantic right whales are dying due to human actions. The DoMF, alongside NOAA, has the opportunity to make the necessary changes to save this species. I am glad to see our commonwealth is taking necessary steps to ensure the protection and survival of right whales by proposing new regulations for commercial fixed gear fisheries and recreational lobster and crab trap fisheries. Some of the changes I support include:

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I strongly encourage the DoMF to develop a plan for a full transition to ropeless technology in commercial trap fisheries as quickly and responsibly as possible. Removing vertical lines from the water is the only way to fully prevent entanglements and save this species.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

Beth Ross  
28 High St  
Beverly, MA 01915-2163

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [Marisa Shafer](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Friday, December 4, 2020 4:55:23 AM

---

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I strongly encourage the DoMF to develop a plan for a full transition to ropeless technology in commercial trap fisheries as quickly and responsibly as possible. Removing vertical lines from the water is the only way to fully prevent entanglements and save this species.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

Marisa Shafer  
4 colliston road  
Brighton , MA 02135

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [Mark Cornebise](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Thursday, December 3, 2020 11:53:28 PM

---

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Dear Director McKiernan:

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I strongly encourage the DoMF to develop a plan for a full transition to ropeless technology in commercial trap fisheries as quickly and responsibly as possible. Removing vertical lines from the water is the only way to fully prevent entanglements and save this species.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

Mark Cornebise  
15 Ronald Road  
Arlington , MA 02474

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [maryanna@foskettco.com](mailto:maryanna@foskettco.com)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Thursday, December 3, 2020 10:55:26 PM

---

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Dear Director McKiernan:

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I strongly encourage the DoMF to develop a plan for a full transition to ropeless technology in commercial trap fisheries as quickly and responsibly as possible. Removing vertical lines from the water is the only way to fully prevent entanglements and save this species.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

MaryAnna Foskett  
101 Brantwood Rd  
Arlington, MA 02476-8005

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [Anthony Rosner](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Thursday, December 3, 2020 10:55:26 PM

---

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I strongly encourage the DoMF to develop a plan for a full transition to ropeless technology in commercial trap fisheries as quickly and responsibly as possible. Removing vertical lines from the water is the only way to fully prevent entanglements and save this species.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

Anthony Rosner  
156 School Street  
Watertown, MA 02472

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [Aaron Beer](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Thursday, December 3, 2020 10:37:24 PM

---

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Dear Director McKiernan:

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I strongly encourage the DoMF to develop a plan for a full transition to ropeless technology in commercial trap fisheries as quickly and responsibly as possible. Removing vertical lines from the water is the only way to fully prevent entanglements and save this species.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

Aaron Beer  
15 Church St  
Natick, MA 01760

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [Fanny Whitman](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Thursday, December 3, 2020 10:31:24 PM

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I strongly encourage the DoMF to develop a plan for a full transition to ropeless technology in commercial trap fisheries as quickly and responsibly as possible. Removing vertical lines from the water is the only way to fully prevent entanglements and save this species.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

Fanny Whitman  
P O Box 191  
Westport, MA 02791

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [Stephen Donnelly](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Thursday, December 3, 2020 10:20:23 PM

---

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I strongly encourage the DoMF to develop a plan for a full transition to ropeless technology in commercial trap fisheries as quickly and responsibly as possible. Removing vertical lines from the water is the only way to fully prevent entanglements and save this species.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

Stephen Donnelly  
6 Pinebrook Dr  
Easthampton, MA 01027

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [Steve Ollove](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Thursday, December 3, 2020 10:19:24 PM

---

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

Steve Ollove  
105 Gregory Island Road  
South Hamilton, MA 01982

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [Brenda Murphy](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Thursday, December 3, 2020 10:16:24 PM

---

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

Brenda Murphy  
1438 Great Pond Road  
North Andover, MA 01845

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [luana canale](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Thursday, December 3, 2020 9:45:23 PM

---

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

luana canale  
10 brookside avenue  
boston, MA 02130

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [megan@thelepores.com](mailto:megan@thelepores.com)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Thursday, December 3, 2020 9:09:21 PM

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

Megan Lepore  
93 Curtis Ave  
Marlboro, MA 01752

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [Allison Ludtke](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Thursday, December 3, 2020 8:54:26 PM

---

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

Allison Ludtke  
109A Lexington Street  
Watertown, MA 02472

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [LeeAllen Meyer](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Thursday, December 3, 2020 8:54:26 PM

---

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

LeeAllen Meyer  
170 Bunker Hill St, 2  
Boston, MA 02129

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [theambiencepeddler@charter.net](mailto:theambiencepeddler@charter.net)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Thursday, December 3, 2020 8:52:21 PM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Director McKiernan:

As a concerned Massachusetts resident, I fear the North Atlantic right whale may go extinct in my lifetime. North Atlantic right whales are dying due to human actions. The DoMF, alongside NOAA, has the opportunity to make the necessary changes to save this species. I am glad to see our commonwealth is taking necessary steps to ensure the protection and survival of right whales by proposing new regulations for commercial fixed gear fisheries and recreational lobster and crab trap fisheries. Some of the changes I support include:

- ? Expanded closures for trap fisheries in all of Massachusetts waters.
- ? A new closed season for the buoyed recreational lobster and crab trap fishery.
- ? The DoMF retaining the ability to extend these closures based on North Atlantic right whale sightings.
- ? A marking system that will differentiate the gear that may be lawfully used in Massachusetts from heavier gear that may be used in the offshore exclusive economic zone or Canada.

I strongly encourage the DoMF to develop a plan for a full transition to ropeless technology in commercial trap fisheries as quickly and responsibly as possible. Removing vertical lines from the water is the only way to fully prevent entanglements and save this species.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

Patrick Beaudry  
192 stafford st  
Worcester , MA 01603

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [Sonja Baris](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Thursday, December 3, 2020 8:36:20 PM

---

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Dear Director McKiernan:

As a concerned Massachusetts resident, I fear the North Atlantic right whale may go extinct in my lifetime. North Atlantic right whales are dying due to human actions. The DoMF, alongside NOAA, has the opportunity to make the necessary changes to save this species. I am glad to see our commonwealth is taking necessary steps to ensure the protection and survival of right whales by proposing new regulations for commercial fixed gear fisheries and recreational lobster and crab trap fisheries. Some of the changes I support include:

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I strongly encourage the DoMF to develop a plan for a full transition to ropeless technology in commercial trap fisheries as quickly and responsibly as possible. Removing vertical lines from the water is the only way to fully prevent entanglements and save this species.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

Sonja Baris  
86 Grove St  
Clinton, MA 01510-3646

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [Andrea Ferguson](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Thursday, December 3, 2020 8:15:20 PM

---

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Dear Director McKiernan:

As a concerned Massachusetts resident, I fear the North Atlantic right whale may go extinct in my lifetime. North Atlantic right whales are dying due to human actions. The DoMF, alongside NOAA, has the opportunity to make the necessary changes to save this species. I am glad to see our commonwealth is taking necessary steps to ensure the protection and survival of right whales by proposing new regulations for commercial fixed gear fisheries and recreational lobster and crab trap fisheries. Some of the changes I support include:

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I strongly encourage the DoMF to develop a plan for a full transition to ropeless technology in commercial trap fisheries as quickly and responsibly as possible. Removing vertical lines from the water is the only way to fully prevent entanglements and save this species.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

Andrea Ferguson  
158 Harris St  
Granby, MA 01033

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [Deborah Goodman](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Thursday, December 3, 2020 7:59:20 PM

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Dear Director McKiernan:

As a concerned Massachusetts resident, I fear the North Atlantic right whale may go extinct in my lifetime. North Atlantic right whales are dying due to human actions. The DoMF, alongside NOAA, has the opportunity to make the necessary changes to save this species. I am glad to see our commonwealth is taking necessary steps to ensure the protection and survival of right whales by proposing new regulations for commercial fixed gear fisheries and recreational lobster and crab trap fisheries. Some of the changes I support include:

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I strongly encourage the DoMF to develop a plan for a full transition to ropeless technology in commercial trap fisheries as quickly and responsibly as possible. Removing vertical lines from the water is the only way to fully prevent entanglements and save this species.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

Deborah Goodman  
65 Atherton Road, 1  
Brookline, MA 02446-2770

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [Jane Luu](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Thursday, December 3, 2020 7:37:19 PM

---

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Dear Director McKiernan:

As a concerned Massachusetts resident, I fear the North Atlantic right whale may go extinct in my lifetime. North Atlantic right whales are dying due to human actions. The DoMF, alongside NOAA, has the opportunity to make the necessary changes to save this species. I am glad to see our commonwealth is taking necessary steps to ensure the protection and survival of right whales by proposing new regulations for commercial fixed gear fisheries and recreational lobster and crab trap fisheries. Some of the changes I support include:

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I strongly encourage the DoMF to develop a plan for a full transition to ropeless technology in commercial trap fisheries as quickly and responsibly as possible. Removing vertical lines from the water is the only way to fully prevent entanglements and save this species.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

Jane Luu  
104 Simonds Rd  
Lexington, MA 02420-1621

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [Anna Stein](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Thursday, December 3, 2020 7:30:18 PM

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Dear Director McKiernan:

As a concerned Massachusetts resident, I fear the North Atlantic right whale may go extinct in my lifetime. North Atlantic right whales are dying due to human actions. The DoMF, alongside NOAA, has the opportunity to make the necessary changes to save this species. I am glad to see our commonwealth is taking necessary steps to ensure the protection and survival of right whales by proposing new regulations for commercial fixed gear fisheries and recreational lobster and crab trap fisheries. Some of the changes I support include:

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I strongly encourage the DoMF to develop a plan for a full transition to ropeless technology in commercial trap fisheries as quickly and responsibly as possible. Removing vertical lines from the water is the only way to fully prevent entanglements and save this species.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

Anna Stein  
25 Harvard Street  
Melrose, MA 02176-4814

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [melifleming@hotmail.com](mailto:melifleming@hotmail.com)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Thursday, December 3, 2020 7:29:18 PM

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Dear Director McKiernan:

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I strongly encourage the DoMF to develop a plan for a full transition to ropeless technology in commercial trap fisheries as quickly and responsibly as possible. Removing vertical lines from the water is the only way to fully prevent entanglements and save this species.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

Melissa Fleming  
46 Chase St  
Danvers, MA 01923-3228

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [amfoster@optonline.net](mailto:amfoster@optonline.net)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Thursday, December 3, 2020 7:28:18 PM

---

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Dear Director McKiernan:

As a concerned Massachusetts resident, I fear the North Atlantic right whale may go extinct in my lifetime. North Atlantic right whales are dying due to human actions. The DoMF, alongside NOAA, has the opportunity to make the necessary changes to save this species. I am glad to see our commonwealth is taking necessary steps to ensure the protection and survival of right whales by proposing new regulations for commercial fixed gear fisheries and recreational lobster and crab trap fisheries. Some of the changes I support include:

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- ? A marking system that will differentiate the gear that may be lawfully used in Massachusetts from heavier gear that may be used in the offshore exclusive economic zone or Canada.

I strongly encourage the DoMF to develop a plan for a full transition to ropeless technology in commercial trap fisheries as quickly and responsibly as possible. Removing vertical lines from the water is the only way to fully prevent entanglements and save this species.

Whales are sentient mammals, capable of thought, compassion and group endeavors. We must protect and preserve these wonderful creatures. Do not allow them to be one extinct on our watch.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

APRIL FOSTER  
99 Pond Ave  
Brookline, MA 02445

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [Nanette Schieron](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Thursday, December 3, 2020 7:00:16 PM

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Dear Director McKiernan:

As a concerned Massachusetts resident, I fear the North Atlantic right whale may go extinct in my lifetime. North Atlantic right whales are dying due to human actions. The DoMF, alongside NOAA, has the opportunity to make the necessary changes to save this species. I am glad to see our commonwealth is taking necessary steps to ensure the protection and survival of right whales by proposing new regulations for commercial fixed gear fisheries and recreational lobster and crab trap fisheries. Some of the changes I support include:

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- ? The DoMF retaining the ability to extend these closures based on North Atlantic right whale sightings.
- ? A marking system that will differentiate the gear that may be lawfully used in Massachusetts from heavier gear that may be used in the offshore exclusive economic zone or Canada.

I strongly encourage the DoMF to develop a plan for a full transition to ropeless technology in commercial trap fisheries as quickly and responsibly as possible. Removing vertical lines from the water is the only way to fully prevent entanglements and save this species.

This species is very special, as all our whales are. It has been on the brink of extinction since whaling began, since it was the "right" whale to hunt for human purposes. It deserves to have safe waters to live and breed in and that requires human intervention for the good of this species.

We owe it to this whale to survive and thrive and with your help to transition to ROPELESS fishing gear, it has a chance.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

Nanette Schieron  
75 Damon's Point Road  
Marshfield Hills, MA 02050

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [petbulldogs@comcast.net](mailto:petbulldogs@comcast.net)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Thursday, December 3, 2020 6:47:16 PM

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Dear Director McKiernan:

As a concerned Massachusetts resident, I fear the North Atlantic right whale may go extinct in my lifetime. North Atlantic right whales are dying due to human actions. The DoMF, alongside NOAA, has the opportunity to make the necessary changes to save this species. I am glad to see our commonwealth is taking necessary steps to ensure the protection and survival of right whales by proposing new regulations for commercial fixed gear fisheries and recreational lobster and crab trap fisheries. Some of the changes I support include:

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Robbins  
34 Wilson Ave N  
North Reading, MA 01864

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [Kristin Masefield](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Thursday, December 3, 2020 6:46:16 PM

---

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Dear Director McKiernan:

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

Kristin Masefield  
5 Timothy Dr  
West Bridgewater, MA 02379

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [Wrenn Reed](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Thursday, December 3, 2020 6:43:16 PM

---

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

Wrenn Reed  
1550 Beacon St  
Brookline, MA 02446-2247

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [Barbara B Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Thursday, December 3, 2020 6:43:16 PM

---

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I strongly encourage the DoMF to develop a plan for a full transition to ropeless technology in commercial trap fisheries as quickly and responsibly as possible. Removing vertical lines from the water is the only way to fully prevent entanglements and save this species.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

Barbara B  
Crane st  
Dedham, MA 02026

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [taatkins@comcast.net](mailto:taatkins@comcast.net)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Thursday, December 3, 2020 6:39:16 PM

---

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I strongly encourage the DoMF to develop a plan for a full transition to ropeless technology in commercial trap fisheries as quickly and responsibly as possible. Removing vertical lines from the water is the only way to fully prevent entanglements and save this species.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

Todd Atkins  
71 messenger st., 912  
Plainville, MA 02762-2235

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [pjsmith2020@comcast.net](mailto:pjsmith2020@comcast.net)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Thursday, December 3, 2020 6:37:16 PM

---

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

PAMELA J. SMITH  
678 brush hill rd  
Milton, MA 02186-1306

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [Kevin Worker](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Thursday, December 3, 2020 6:33:15 PM

---

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

Kevin Worker  
153 Lions Mouth Rd  
Amesbury, MA 01913

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [Dianewildes@comcast.net](mailto:Dianewildes@comcast.net)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Thursday, December 3, 2020 6:30:16 PM

---

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- ? A new closed season for the buoyed recreational lobster and crab trap fishery.
- ? The DoMF retaining the ability to extend these closures based on North Atlantic right whale sightings.
- ? A marking system that will differentiate the gear that may be lawfully used in Massachusetts from heavier gear that may be used in the offshore exclusive economic zone or Canada.

I strongly encourage the DoMF to develop a plan for a full transition to ropeless technology in commercial trap fisheries as quickly and responsibly as possible. Removing vertical lines from the water is the only way to fully prevent entanglements and save this species.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

Diane Wildes  
32 Coleman rd  
Groveland, MA 01834-1021

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [Virginia Jastromb](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Thursday, December 3, 2020 6:29:15 PM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Director McKiernan:

As a concerned Massachusetts resident, I fear the North Atlantic right whale may go extinct in my lifetime. North Atlantic right whales are dying due to human actions. The DoMF, alongside NOAA, has the opportunity to make the necessary changes to save this species. I am glad to see our commonwealth is taking necessary steps to ensure the protection and survival of right whales by proposing new regulations for commercial fixed gear fisheries and recreational lobster and crab trap fisheries. Some of the changes I support include:

- ? Expanded closures for trap fisheries in all of Massachusetts waters.
- ? A new closed season for the buoyed recreational lobster and crab trap fishery.
- ? The DoMF retaining the ability to extend these closures based on North Atlantic right whale sightings.
- ? A marking system that will differentiate the gear that may be lawfully used in Massachusetts from heavier gear that may be used in the offshore exclusive economic zone or Canada.

I strongly encourage the DoMF to develop a plan for a full transition to ropeless technology in commercial trap fisheries as quickly and responsibly as possible. Removing vertical lines from the water is the only way to fully prevent entanglements and save this species.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

Virginia Jastromb  
73 Barrett St.  
Northampton, MA 01060

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [maelstrom747@hotmail.com](mailto:maelstrom747@hotmail.com)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Thursday, December 3, 2020 6:28:16 PM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Director McKiernan:

As a concerned Massachusetts resident, I fear the North Atlantic right whale may go extinct in my lifetime. North Atlantic right whales are dying due to human actions. The DoMF, alongside NOAA, has the opportunity to make the necessary changes to save this species. I am glad to see our commonwealth is taking necessary steps to ensure the protection and survival of right whales by proposing new regulations for commercial fixed gear fisheries and recreational lobster and crab trap fisheries. Some of the changes I support include:

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I strongly encourage the DoMF to develop a plan for a full transition to ropeless technology in commercial trap fisheries as quickly and responsibly as possible. Removing vertical lines from the water is the only way to fully prevent entanglements and save this species.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Storm  
17 Lincoln Street  
Norwood, MA 02062-2119

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [BetsyMattuchio@hotmail.com](mailto:BetsyMattuchio@hotmail.com)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Thursday, December 3, 2020 6:27:16 PM

---

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I strongly encourage the DoMF to develop a plan for a full transition to ropeless technology in commercial trap fisheries as quickly and responsibly as possible. Removing vertical lines from the water is the only way to fully prevent entanglements and save this species.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

Betsy Mattuchio  
94 Malvern st  
Melrose, MA 02176-4827

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [Shelley Hartz](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Thursday, December 3, 2020 6:27:15 PM

---

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

Shelley Hartz  
7 Baron Way  
Littleton, MA 01460

**From:** [Ray Rock](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing Comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 2, 2020 1:30:27 PM

---

Attn Director Daniel McKiernan,

Your public comment e-mail sent on Nov 13<sup>th</sup> states the draft regulations are to “reduce the risk of entanglement.” Your Memo of Nov 13<sup>th</sup> states “only affect right whale conservation.” Understandably that is of great concern, but to include All of Massachusetts waters in these new regulations is unreasonable. According to NOAA, the North Atlantic Right Whale migratory routes and calving ground is south of Block Island, and the feeding area is mainly Cape Cod Bay including the waters north and eastward. I recreational lobster in Buzzards Bay, in 30’ or less of water, and sometimes in one of the back bays, all not close to the feeding grounds or route.

My comments on Recreational Lobster and Crab Trap Gear Haul-Out Season (322 CMR 6.02)

The season is short enough already, to shorten it even more is unnecessary, add a couple more weeks and make the haul-out season from Nov 15<sup>th</sup> - April 30<sup>th</sup>, this will allow DMF and MEP time to identify and remove lost or abandoned recreational trap gear.

Another option would be to follow the commercial trap gear closure periods of February 1 - April 30<sup>th</sup>.

To assist DMF and MEP, they could partner with the “locals” to assist them in reporting of abandoned gear they encounter. This could be done with education and outreach, via a link on their websites, advertisements, or inserts in the renewal notification for non-commercial lobster permits.

Comments on Vertical Buoy Line Maximum Diameter for Recreational Trap Gear (322 CMR 12.06)

The overview of the draft regulations for maximum line diameter does not offer any reasoning other than identification, it does not make sense and it is an undue cost to change the size of the buoy line for identification. I suggest deleting the requirement.

A commercial fisherman is required to mark only the Lic # on the buoy, a

recreational fisherman is required to have an “N” preceding the Lic # and then a sequential number (from 0-9) on the buoy, more than enough information to determine a pot owner without pulling the pot from the water to observe the line.

If the smaller line diameter change is meant to have a lower breaking strength, recreational requirements require a 600 lb. weak link in the line, about 3 times lower than the breaking strength of the buoy line.

As it is, my buoy line is routinely caught in the rocks and only after 1 season, I can see the wear and tear on the line. Over time, using 5/16” line, it will wear and break prematurely. Again, I only fish in Buzzards Bay, I think that recreational fisherman fish their gear in coastal waters and not in off shore waters used by migratory whales.

Thank you

R

**From:** [mailagent@thesoftedge.com](mailto:mailagent@thesoftedge.com) on behalf of [Alfred Mancini](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** New Protected Species Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 7:34:26 PM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Director McKiernan:

As a concerned Massachusetts resident, I fear the North Atlantic right whale may go extinct in my lifetime. North Atlantic right whales are dying due to human actions. The DoMF, alongside NOAA, has the opportunity to make the necessary changes to save this species. I am glad to see our commonwealth is taking necessary steps to ensure the protection and survival of right whales by proposing new regulations for commercial fixed gear fisheries and recreational lobster and crab trap fisheries. Some of the changes I support include:

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- A new closed season for the buoyed recreational lobster and crab trap fishery.
- The DoMF retaining the ability to extend these closures based on North Atlantic right whale sightings.
- A marking system that will differentiate the gear that may be lawfully used in Massachusetts from heavier gear that may be used in the offshore exclusive economic zone or Canada.

I strongly encourage the DoMF to develop a plan for a full transition to ropeless technology in commercial trap fisheries as quickly and responsibly as possible. Removing vertical lines from the water is the only way to fully prevent entanglements and save this species.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope that my suggestions will be considered in this process and that the DoMF continues to prioritize right whale protections.

Sincerely,

Alfred Mancini  
15 Kenneth Lane  
Tewksbury, MA 01876-2910

**From:** [Jennifer Heilig](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** North Atlantic right whales  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 2, 2020 1:42:33 PM

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**CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed draft regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are ship strikes and entanglements: no right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million miles of vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled twice or more. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining. Right whales could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

**From:** [Ryan Drohan](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** NRW regulations public comment  
**Date:** Monday, November 16, 2020 9:14:00 AM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern

I am against the seasonal closure in all commonwealth waters. This will just give more leverage to a seasonal closure in northern A1 federal waters. Please look into the economic impact if those federal waters would be lost. Jefferys ledge in the winter is a big part of our income so please do your research. I am for a endline less than 3/8 and a breaking point in the upper 1/3 of endline. I also would like to see a freeze on all new permit transfers and set up student license to coastal permit program similar to Maine. In my opinion we are allowing in too many new entrants who have more money than experience.

Sincerely  
Ryan Drohan  
F/V William G. Drohan  
Rockport, MA  
Permit #001574

**From:** [John King](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#); [me](#); [Jim](#)  
**Subject:** Prohibition on fishing single Lobster Traps for Vessels of a Certain Size (322 CMR 12.06)  
**Date:** Saturday, December 5, 2020 12:46:56 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Director McKiernan,

Having fished lobsters in Cape Cod Bay since I was a boy with my father in a skiff using wooden buoys, wooden traps and pegging lobsters with wooden pegs I have seen many changes to the fishery. As many of these changes have been for the good, I must oppose the single trap prohibition for vessels of a certain size as this would put us out of the fishery. I often fish alone when there is no crew available so trawls would be too dangerous and labor intensive to continue. We fish inside the Billingsgate exempted area where there are no right whales (thanks to the aerial surveys that follow the whales as they exit Cape Cod Bay in the spring) so this prohibition makes no sense for this area.

Sincerely,

Jim & John King  
F/V Nonnie Babe

**From:** [john herrick](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed regulations to trap and gear changes  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 17, 2020 10:46:59 AM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Comments:

As a current recreational lobsterman, I fish my traps in the harbor through mid November and haul out Thanksgiving weekend.

As a former commercial lobsterman and father, I would love for my sons to have the opportunity to make money and gain appreciation for the marine environment. Limiting student lobster licenses is a slippery slope. How many current student lobster licenses are there? Are we limiting our next generation in the fishery?

Is the boat size and trap trawl requirement meant for only commercial fishermen? Fishing trawls as sport does not always make sense. (I fish two trap trawls just to not loose gear though).

Thank you,

John Herrick

**From:** [Timothy Field](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment for Protected Species Regulations affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing  
**Date:** Saturday, December 5, 2020 1:35:49 PM  
**Attachments:** [rightwhalepubliccomment.odt](#)

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Attached is my public comment. Please confirm receipt.\

Thanks,

Timothy Field  
508-264-3838

Sent with [ProtonMail](#) Secure Email.

**From:** [Lynne Silva](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Recreational Lobster and Crab Trap Gear Haul-Out Season  
**Date:** Monday, November 30, 2020 5:59:33 PM  
**Attachments:** [mass dmf lobster closure.pdf](#)  
[ATT00001.htm](#)

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Attention Director Daniel McKiernan

On behalf of David Tilton, I have attached a letter concerning the proposed Recreational Lobster and Crab Trap Gear Haul-Out Season.  
Lynne Silva

**From:** [David R Grace](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Recreational Lobster closed season  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 17, 2020 7:51:30 AM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I oppose the following proposed regulation:

4. Recreational Lobster and Crab Trap Gear Haul-Out Season (322 CMR 6.02). DMF is proposing to implement a new closed season for buoyed recreational lobster and crab trap gear. The closed season would run from the Tuesday following Columbus Day through the Friday preceding Memorial Day.

While few citizens fish recreationally through the winter, some do, and the amount of traps in the water is inconsequential to the vast amount of commercial traps in the water. A recreational lobster person should not be forced to stop feeding their family while commercial fishing is allowed. A compromise would be to close the fishery for December-March.

Thanks

David Grace  
dgrace14@comcast.net

**From:** [Neal Melanson](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Recreational Lobster Restrictions  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 17, 2020 10:10:39 AM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I WANT TO BE ABLE TO BRING FRESH CAUGHT LOBSTER TO MY GRANDMOTHER ON CHRISTMAS DAY!!! AND HER JANUARY 16 BIRTHDAY.

[https://www.facebook.com/neal.melanson/posts/10222055744816509?notif\\_id=1605582001401359&notif\\_t=feedback\\_reaction\\_generic&ref=notif](https://www.facebook.com/neal.melanson/posts/10222055744816509?notif_id=1605582001401359&notif_t=feedback_reaction_generic&ref=notif)

--

Neal Melanson  
89 Central St.  
Rowley Ma. 01969

978 948 7189

**From:** [Stephen Schmitt](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Right Whales  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 7:22:03 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please require rope less fishing gear so whales don't become entangled in fishing nets.

Sue Schmitt  
Boxborough, MA

**From:** [diane gordon-Sacchetti](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Ripeness whales  
**Date:** Friday, December 4, 2020 4:54:57 PM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please it is our responsibility to save these mammals  
We Must have ropeless fishing included in the bill

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Madison Kahn](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Monday, December 7, 2020 12:19:08 AM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed draft regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are ship strikes and entanglements: no right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million miles of vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled twice or more. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining. Right whales could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Madison Kahn  
Saddle River, NJ 07458

**From:** [Jennifer D'Angelo](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Monday, December 7, 2020 12:16:54 AM

---

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Thank you.

Jennifer D'Angelo  
Attleboro, MA 02703

**From:** [Madeline Gravante](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Monday, December 7, 2020 12:13:34 AM

---

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Thank you.

Madeline Gravante  
Staten Island, NY 10304

**From:** [Kevin Serrano](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Monday, December 7, 2020 12:11:03 AM

---

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Thank you.

Kevin Serrano  
Raymond, NH 03077

**From:** [Katarina Heffron](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Monday, December 7, 2020 12:08:20 AM

---

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed draft regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are ship strikes and entanglements: no right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million miles of vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled twice or more. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining. Right whales could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Katarina Heffron  
Glen Head, NY 11545

**From:** [Peter Kahigian](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Monday, December 7, 2020 12:04:05 AM

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Peter Kahigian  
Haverhill, MA 01832

**From:** [Helene Bank](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 11:58:31 PM

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Thank you.

Helene Bank  
Cambridge, MA 02139

**From:** [Cecilia Curran](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 11:55:37 PM

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Cecilia Curran  
Mc Lean, VA 22101

**From:** [Luke Keating](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 11:53:08 PM

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Thank you.

Luke Keating  
Garden City, NY 11530

**From:** [Annie Cohen](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 11:47:45 PM

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Thank you.

Annie Cohen  
Boston, MA 02114

**From:** [Ryan Ford](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 11:45:38 PM

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Ryan Ford  
Amherst, MA 01002

**From:** [Grant Chryssicas](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 11:43:37 PM

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Grant Chryssicas  
Wellesley Hills, MA 02481

**From:** [Zack Mooney](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 11:38:20 PM

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Zack Mooney  
Cambridge, MA 02138

**From:** [William Podbela](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 11:35:51 PM

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William Podbela  
Syosset, NY 11791

**From:** [Diane Sacchetti](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 11:30:28 PM

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Diane Sacchetti  
Prides Crossing, MA 01965

**From:** [Claire Nam](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 11:25:33 PM

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Claire Nam  
, 07423-1303

**From:** [Lozz Starseed](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 11:21:19 PM

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Lozz Starseed  
Lexington, MA 02420

**From:** [Kurt Hirschenhofer](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 11:17:07 PM

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Kurt Hirschenhofer  
Millis, MA 02054

**From:** [Michael Lynch](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 11:14:37 PM

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Michael Lynch  
Quincy, MA 02169

**From:** [Donna Parente](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 11:09:10 PM

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Thank you.

Donna Parente  
Milford, MA 01757

**From:** [Mary Lynch](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 11:05:29 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed draft regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are ship strikes and entanglements: no right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million miles of vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled twice or more. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining. Right whales could be extinct within our lifetime.

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Thank you.

Mary Lynch  
Boston, MA 02113

**From:** [Mary Lynch](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 11:01:04 PM

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Mary Lynch  
North Dartmouth, MA 02747

**From:** [Patrick Altieri](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 10:57:24 PM

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Thank you.

Patrick Altieri  
Kansas City, MO 64111

**From:** [Patrick Altieri](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 10:54:54 PM

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Kansas City, MO 64111

**From:** [Kathy Marini](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 10:50:14 PM

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Kathy Marini  
Murrells Inlet, SC 29576

**From:** [Mac Lynch](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 10:45:38 PM

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Mac Lynch  
Providence, RI 02906

**From:** [John White](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 10:39:51 PM

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John White  
Worcester, MA 01605

**From:** [Theodora Boura](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 10:35:12 PM

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Theodora Boura  
Brighton, MA 02135

**From:** [Richard Stafford](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 10:32:41 PM

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Richard Stafford  
Salem, MA 01970

**From:** [Jennifer Williams](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 9:00:08 PM

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Jennifer Williams  
Huntsville, AL 35803

**From:** [Joyce Darch](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 8:57:37 PM

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Joyce Darch  
Deltona, FL 32725

**From:** [Tim Nash](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 8:53:17 PM

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Tim Nash  
Orlando, FL 32804

**From:** [Madison Lynch](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 8:48:59 PM

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Madison Lynch  
Boston, MA 02113

**From:** [Linda Knowles](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 8:43:17 PM

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Linda Knowles  
Newton Upper Falls, MA 02464

**From:** [Jennifer Williams](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 8:37:47 PM

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Huntsville, AL 35803

**From:** [Victoria McDonald](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 8:35:17 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed draft regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are ship strikes and entanglements: no right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million miles of vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled twice or more. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining. Right whales could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Victoria McDonald  
East Freetown, MA 02717

**From:** [Christine Leeman](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 8:32:00 PM

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Christine Leeman  
Fairhaven, MA 02719

**From:** [Ryan Cove](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 8:28:05 PM

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Thank you.

Ryan Cove  
Longmeadow, MA 01106

**From:** [Rohan Bose](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 8:26:02 PM

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Thank you.

Rohan Bose  
Chestnut Hill, MA 02467

**From:** [Peter Kahigian](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 8:23:36 PM

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Peter Kahigian  
Haverhill, MA 01832

**From:** [Seth Coffey](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 8:21:05 PM

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Thank you.

Seth Coffey  
Billerica, MA 01821

**From:** [Brendan Eddy](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 8:18:43 PM

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Thank you.

Brendan Eddy  
Worcester, MA 01609

**From:** [Joe Blatt](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 8:12:54 PM

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Joe Blatt  
Lexington, MA 02420

**From:** [Suzanne Schmitt](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 8:10:10 PM

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Suzanne Schmitt  
Boxborough, MA 01719

**From:** [Jeanne Gottfried](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 8:05:12 PM

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Jeanne Gottfried  
Providence, RI 02906

**From:** [Janis Higgins](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 8:02:43 PM

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Janis Higgins  
Medford, MA 02155

**From:** [Peter Ajemian](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 8:00:49 PM

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Peter Ajemian  
Bridgewater, MA 02324

**From:** [Peter Kahigian](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 7:56:01 PM

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Peter Kahigian  
Haverhill, MA 01831

**From:** [Susan Daige](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 7:53:36 PM

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Susan Daige  
Leicester, MA 01524

**From:** [Amy McCoy](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 7:45:42 PM

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Amy McCoy  
Shelburne Falls, MA 01370

**From:** [Ann Walsh](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 7:42:15 PM

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Ann Walsh  
Dorchester Center, MA 02124

**From:** [Joseph Kramer](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 7:37:17 PM

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Joseph Kramer  
Roxbury Crossing, MA 02120

**From:** [Aadhya Shivakumar](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 7:34:46 PM

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Aadhya Shivakumar  
Somerville, MA 02144

**From:** [Clare Ablett](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 7:30:03 PM

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Clare Ablett  
Dorchester Center, MA 02124

**From:** [Hannah Madden](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 7:27:48 PM

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Hannah Madden  
Rye Beach, NH 03871

**From:** [julianna hager](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 7:23:24 PM

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julianna hager  
Allston, MA 02134

**From:** [Meghan Feely](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 7:20:19 PM

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Meghan Feely  
Hebron, ME 04238

**From:** [Max Ratner](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 7:17:48 PM

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Max Ratner  
Southborough, MA 01772

**From:** [Jacob Feuerstein](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 7:13:18 PM

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Jacob Feuerstein  
Lewisburg, PA 17837

**From:** [Robin Donohoe](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 7:11:12 PM

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Robin Donohoe  
Newton, MA 02458

**From:** [Michael Foley](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 7:08:53 PM

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Michael Foley  
Westwood, MA 02090

**From:** [Sarah Pereira](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 7:03:33 PM

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Sarah Pereira  
North Dartmouth, MA 02747

**From:** [Laurie Vahedi](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 7:01:03 PM

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Laurie Vahedi  
Los Altos, CA 94022

**From:** [Beth Arguin](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 6:56:59 PM

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Beth Arguin  
North Dartmouth, MA 02747

**From:** [Kelly Duarte](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 6:54:20 PM

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North Dartmouth, MA 02747

**From:** [Paige Thimmesch](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 6:52:06 PM

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Paige Thimmesch  
Sterling, VA 20165

**From:** [Adelaide Taylor](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 6:46:31 PM

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The primary causes of death for right whales are ship strikes and entanglements: no right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million miles of vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled twice or more. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining. Right whales could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

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Thank you.

Adelaide Taylor  
Boston, MA 02116

**From:** [Abigail Powers](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 6:44:02 PM

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Thank you.

Abigail Powers  
Brookline, MA 02445

**From:** [Carol Berkeley](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 6:38:26 PM

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Thank you.

Carol Berkeley  
Washington, DC 20003

**From:** [Danielle Kanter](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 6:33:30 PM

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Danielle Kanter  
Boston, MA 02118

**From:** [Kabir Adhiya-Kunar](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 6:28:03 PM

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Thank you.

Kabir Adhiya-Kunar  
New York, NY 10033

**From:** [Jack MacKinnon](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 6:25:19 PM

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Thank you.

Jack MacKinnon  
Walpole, MA 02081

**From:** [Annie Nagle](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 6:22:50 PM

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Annie Nagle  
Malden, MA 02148

**From:** [Cameron Sopala](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 6:19:16 PM

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Cameron Sopala  
Brooklyn, NY 11232

**From:** [Jocelyn Yang](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 6:16:47 PM

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Jocelyn Yang  
Boston, MA 02116

**From:** [Elizaveta Koush](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 6:11:40 PM

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Elizaveta Koush  
Mountain View, CA 94040

**From:** [Archana Kulkarni](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 6:07:17 PM

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Thank you.

Archana Kulkarni  
San Jose, CA 95120

**From:** [Lucy Hale](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 6:04:54 PM

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Lucy Hale  
Concord, MA 01742

**From:** [Peter Kahigian](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 6:00:32 PM

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Peter Kahigian  
Haverhill, MA 01832

**From:** [Kurt Hirschenhofer](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 5:58:01 PM

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Kurt Hirschenhofer  
Millis, MA 02054

**From:** [Peter Kahigian](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 5:54:33 PM

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Haverhill, MA 01831

**From:** [Alan Papsacun](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 5:52:07 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed draft regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are ship strikes and entanglements: no right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled twice or more. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining. Right whales could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Alan Papsacun  
Stockbridge, MA 01262

**From:** [Daniel Gibson](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 5:48:54 PM

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Thank you.

Daniel Gibson  
Cambridge, MA 02139

**From:** [Martin Silberberg](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 5:45:39 PM

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Thank you.

Martin Silberberg  
Pelham, MA 01002

**From:** [Joyce MacPherson](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 5:43:08 PM

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Thank you.

Joyce MacPherson  
Canton, MA 02021

**From:** [Erin Quinnan](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 5:40:49 PM

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Thank you.

Erin Quinnan  
Haverhill, MA 01830

**From:** [Annaise Foureau](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 5:38:19 PM

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Thank you.

Annaise Foureau  
Mattapan, MA 02126

**From:** [Anthony Gilardi](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 5:32:59 PM

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Thank you.

Anthony Gilardi  
Boston, MA 02127

**From:** [Anthony Gilardi](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 5:29:39 PM

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Anthony Gilardi  
Boston, MA 02127

**From:** [Jodi Cloney](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 5:27:29 PM

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Jodi Cloney  
North Reading, MA 01864

**From:** [Jennifer Thornton](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 5:25:10 PM

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Jennifer Thornton  
Leverett, MA 01054

**From:** [Eileen Anglin](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 5:22:39 PM

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Eileen Anglin  
Barnegat, NJ 08005

**From:** [Victoria Koch](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 5:20:15 PM

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Victoria Koch  
, L9C 0C2

**From:** [Eileen Prefontaine](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 5:18:06 PM

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Eileen Prefontaine  
Hopkinton, MA 01748

**From:** [Anne O'Connor](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 5:13:50 PM

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Anne O'Connor  
Williamstown, MA 01267

**From:** [Alan Papsacun](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 5:11:11 PM

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Alan Papsacun  
Stockbridge, MA 01262

**From:** [Carolyn Cooney](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 5:08:40 PM

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Carolyn Cooney  
Milford, MA 01757

**From:** [Leonard Rubin](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 5:06:16 PM

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Thank you.

Leonard Rubin  
South Hamilton, MA 01982

**From:** [Theodore Curtin](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 5:02:27 PM

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Thank you.

Theodore Curtin  
Plymouth, MA 02360

**From:** [Ann Cohen](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 4:57:30 PM

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Thank you.

Ann Cohen  
Auburn, MA 01501

**From:** [Deborah Leopold](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 4:50:21 PM

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Deborah Leopold  
Holyoke, MA 01040

**From:** [David Mickelsen](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 4:48:24 PM

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David Mickelsen  
Waltham, MA 02453

**From:** [Barb E](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 4:42:23 PM

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Thank you.

Barb E  
Easthampton, MA 01027

**From:** [Joseph Kelly](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 4:39:53 PM

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Joseph Kelly  
West Roxbury, MA 02132

**From:** [Linda Kelly](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 4:35:33 PM

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Linda Kelly  
West Roxbury, MA 02132

**From:** [Susan McGraw-Keber](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 4:30:54 PM

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Susan McGraw-Keber  
East Hampton, NY 11937

**From:** [Kate Goodale](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 4:28:44 PM

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Kate Goodale  
Cambridge, MA 02138

**From:** [John Cox](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 4:26:15 PM

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John Cox  
Natick, MA 01760

**From:** [Stefanie Gould](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 4:23:45 PM

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Stefanie Gould  
, 01774

**From:** [Sherry Weiland](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 4:20:29 PM

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Sherry Weiland  
Hudson, MA 01749

**From:** [Maggi Brown](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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Maggi Brown  
North Weymouth, MA 02191

**From:** [Eric Fournier](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 4:13:45 PM

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Eric Fournier  
Watertown, MA 02472

**From:** [Sally Maher](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 4:08:38 PM

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Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled twice or more. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining. Right whales could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

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Thank you.

Sally Maher  
Scituate, MA 02066

**From:** [Cary Eggerling](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 4:06:07 PM

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Thank you.

Cary Eggerling  
Cambridge, MA 02139

**From:** [priscilla smith](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 11:02:42 AM

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Thank you.

priscilla smith  
Brookline, MA 02446

**From:** [John Grosjean](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 10:59:15 AM

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Thank you.

John Grosjean  
Acton, MA 01720

**From:** [Nokplim Wozufia](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 10:56:44 AM

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Thank you.

Nokplim Wozufia  
Somerville, MA 02145

**From:** [Leslie Lowe](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 10:37:51 AM

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Thank you.

Leslie Lowe  
Sudbury, MA 01776

**From:** [Christine Lazar](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 10:32:55 AM

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Thank you.

Christine Lazar  
Upton, MA 01568

**From:** [Gina Dadomo](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 10:29:45 AM

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Thank you.

Gina Dadomo  
Rehoboth, MA 02769

**From:** [Susan Mackle](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 10:25:00 AM

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Thank you.

Susan Mackle  
Great Barrington, MA 01230

**From:** [Marjory Trott](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 10:22:29 AM

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Thank you.

Marjory Trott  
Nantucket, MA 02554

**From:** [Sara Brydges](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 10:17:00 AM

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Thank you.

Sara Brydges  
, 017424917

**From:** [John Cevasco](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 10:11:50 AM

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John Cevasco  
Northfield, MA 01360

**From:** [Harriet Forman](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 10:07:31 AM

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Thank you.

Harriet Forman  
Northbridge, MA 01534

**From:** [Diane Sacchetti](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 10:02:42 AM

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Thank you.

Diane Sacchetti  
Prides Crossing, MA 01965

**From:** [Dennis Vieira](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 10:00:13 AM

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Dennis Vieira  
North Dartmouth, MA 02747

**From:** [Colton Dwyer](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 9:56:47 AM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed draft regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are ship strikes and entanglements: no right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million miles of vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled twice or more. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining. Right whales could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Colton Dwyer  
Boston, MA 02114

**From:** [Susan Erony](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 9:54:45 AM

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Thank you.

Susan Erony  
Gloucester, MA 01930

**From:** [Jeanine Mindrum](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 9:50:18 AM

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Thank you.

Jeanine Mindrum  
Westborough, MA 01581

**From:** [Christina Sarney](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 9:44:44 AM

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Thank you.

Christina Sarney  
Kingston, MA 02364

**From:** [Catherine Sarney](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 9:42:16 AM

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Catherine Sarney  
Kingston, MA 02364

**From:** [Jake Markman](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 9:39:57 AM

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Thank you.

Jake Markman  
Watchung, NJ 07069

**From:** [Gabby Finocchio](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 9:36:40 AM

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Thank you.

Gabby Finocchio  
Boston, MA 02118

**From:** [Phyllis Schmidt](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 9:32:02 AM

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Thank you.

Phyllis Schmidt  
, 01852-1222

**From:** [Stacey Monahan](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 9:26:59 AM

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Thank you.

Stacey Monahan  
Westwood, MA 02090

**From:** [Colin Heffron](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 9:24:27 AM

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Colin Heffron  
New York, NY 10014

**From:** [Richard Stafford](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 9:18:57 AM

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Thank you.

Richard Stafford  
Salem, MA 01970

**From:** [Janis Higgins](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 9:13:24 AM

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Janis Higgins  
Medford, MA 02155

**From:** [MARIA FALCON](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 9:09:27 AM

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MARIA FALCON  
Somerville, MA 02145

**From:** [Bryan Bonnett](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 9:06:19 AM

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Bryan Bonnett  
Groton, MA 01450

**From:** [Joan Snowdon](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 9:03:49 AM

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Joan Snowdon  
Leverett, MA 01054

**From:** [Andrea Wells](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 8:58:09 AM

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Thank you.

Andrea Wells  
, 02145-1458

**From:** [Kristin Thorn](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 8:55:47 AM

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Thank you.

Kristin Thorn  
Boston, MA 02115

**From:** [Linda Frisone](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 8:52:25 AM

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Thank you.

Linda Frisone  
Santa Fe, NM 87501

**From:** [JOAN STOCKMAN](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 8:49:03 AM

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Thank you.

JOAN STOCKMAN  
Nantucket, MA 02554

**From:** [Gaia Cole](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Sunday, December 6, 2020 8:46:33 AM

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Thank you.

Gaia Cole  
Brookline, MA 02446

**From:** [Nikki Steele](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 4, 2020 10:40:46 AM

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Thank you.

Nikki Steele  
San Diego, CA 92109

**From:** [Nile Drochak](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 4, 2020 10:35:45 AM

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Thank you.

Nile Drochak  
Roxbury Crossing, MA 02120

**From:** [Lucas Tucker](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 4, 2020 10:30:22 AM

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Lucas Tucker  
Boston, MA 02115

**From:** [Amanda Cox](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 4, 2020 10:26:35 AM

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Amanda Cox  
Belmont, MA 02478

**From:** [Geva Shinar](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 4, 2020 10:24:05 AM

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Geva Shinar  
Boston, MA 02115

**From:** [Jake Shab](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 4, 2020 10:18:08 AM

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Jake Shab  
Pacifica, CA 94044

**From:** [Elizabeth Marshall](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 4, 2020 10:15:23 AM

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Elizabeth Marshall  
Clifton, VA 20124

**From:** [Arun Venugopal](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 4, 2020 10:09:37 AM

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Arun Venugopal  
Chelmsford, MA 01824

**From:** [Julia Friedberg](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 4, 2020 10:04:27 AM

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Julia Friedberg  
Somerville, MA 02144

**From:** [Antonio Gillespie](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 4, 2020 10:02:10 AM

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Antonio Gillespie  
Chestnut Hill, MA 02467

**From:** [Michael Kozuch](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 4, 2020 9:56:39 AM

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Michael Kozuch  
Boston, MA 02127

**From:** [Jennifer Koopmans](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 4, 2020 9:51:54 AM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed draft regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are ship strikes and entanglements: no right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million miles of vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled twice or more. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining. Right whales could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

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Thank you.

Jennifer Koopmans  
West Barnstable, MA 02668

**From:** [Luxshmi Sivalogan](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 4, 2020 9:48:56 AM

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Thank you.

Luxshmi Sivalogan  
Dedham, MA 02026

**From:** [Oona Metz](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 4, 2020 9:44:24 AM

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Thank you.

Oona Metz  
Arlington, MA 02474

**From:** [Dene Crystal](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 4, 2020 9:39:32 AM

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Thank you.

Dene Crystal  
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

**From:** [Erin Sharaf](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 4, 2020 9:35:48 AM

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Thank you.

Erin Sharaf  
Concord, MA 01742

**From:** [Erin Fitzgerald](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 4, 2020 9:32:27 AM

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Thank you.

Erin Fitzgerald  
Westwood, MA 02090

**From:** [Otis Burns](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 4, 2020 9:28:34 AM

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Otis Burns  
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

**From:** [Cathy Edwards](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 4, 2020 9:26:05 AM

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Thank you.

Cathy Edwards  
Cambridge, MA 02138

**From:** [Barbara Bradley](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 4, 2020 9:22:16 AM

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Barbara Bradley  
Brewster, MA 02631

**From:** [Mary Lynch](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 4, 2020 9:16:22 AM

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Mary Lynch  
Boston, MA 02113

**From:** [Patrick Altieri](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 4, 2020 9:10:49 AM

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Patrick Altieri  
Kansas City, MO 64111

**From:** [Jennifer Williams](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 4, 2020 9:08:45 AM

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Jennifer Williams  
Huntsville, AL 35803

**From:** [Joyce Darch](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 4, 2020 9:06:09 AM

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Joyce Darch  
Deltona, FL 32725

**From:** [Mac Lynch](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 4, 2020 9:03:17 AM

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Mac Lynch  
Providence, RI 02906

**From:** [Tim Nash](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 4, 2020 9:00:10 AM

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Tim Nash  
Orlando, FL 32804

**From:** [Kathy Marini](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 4, 2020 8:54:51 AM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed draft regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are ship strikes and entanglements: no right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million miles of vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled twice or more. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining. Right whales could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Kathy Marini  
Murrells Inlet, SC 29576

**From:** [Beth Arguin](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 4, 2020 8:50:44 AM

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Thank you.

Beth Arguin  
North Dartmouth, MA 02747

**From:** [Kelly Duarte](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Friday, December 4, 2020 8:48:15 AM

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Thank you.

Kelly Duarte  
North Dartmouth, MA 02747

**From:** [Alanna Kelly](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 2, 2020 12:55:04 PM

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Thank you.

Alanna Kelly  
West Roxbury, MA 02132

**From:** [Judith Roberts](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 2, 2020 12:51:51 PM

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Thank you.

Judith Roberts  
Belchertown, MA 01007

**From:** [Nichole Cirillo](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 2, 2020 12:49:22 PM

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Thank you.

Nichole Cirillo  
Cambridge, MA 02139

**From:** [keith drucker](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 2, 2020 12:46:03 PM

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Thank you.

keith drucker  
Boston, MA 02109

**From:** [Nick Marshall](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 2, 2020 12:43:51 PM

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Thank you.

Nick Marshall  
Clifton, VA 20124

**From:** [Michael Lucas](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 2, 2020 12:41:14 PM

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Thank you.

Michael Lucas  
Sterling, VA 20165

**From:** [Caley Vahedi](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 2, 2020 12:35:51 PM

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Thank you.

Caley Vahedi  
Boston, MA 02115

**From:** [Justin Shim](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 2, 2020 12:33:21 PM

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Thank you.

Justin Shim  
Herndon, VA 20171

**From:** [Lynda Tocci](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 2, 2020 12:32:45 PM

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Okay folks. Massachusetts is the home of innovation. The technology for ropeless gear already exists and is in use. Please address this in your regulations to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

Whales are dying and while closures are helpful we can't keep doing the same thing and expect a different result.

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Thank you.

Lynda Tocci  
Somerville, MA 02145

**From:** [marci.cemenska](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 1, 2020 6:11:52 PM

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Thank you.

marci.cemenska  
Lexington, MA 02421

**From:** [Alanna Kelly](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 1, 2020 1:11:30 PM

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Alanna Kelly  
West Roxbury, MA 02132

**From:** [Sean Dillmeier](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Monday, December 7, 2020 12:21:52 AM

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Thank you.

Sean Dillmeier  
Garden City, NY 11530

**From:** [Mark Begley](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Submitting comment on right whale regulations  
**Date:** Saturday, November 14, 2020 9:53:18 PM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Director McKiernan,

I am writing to express my support for all proposed regulations outlined in the recent email regarding increased protections for right whales. The proposed changes are reasonable and grounded in science and crucial for protecting this highly endangered species.

Sincerely,  
Mark Begley

**From:** [whinny3](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** To: Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries  
**Date:** Saturday, December 5, 2020 10:04:49 PM

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Saturday, December 5, 2020

To: Director McKiernan  
Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

North Atlantic Right Whales are rapidly approaching extinction. These sentient mammals tragically now number only in the mid 300's. One major cause of their demise is entanglement in the ropes that connect buoys on the surface of the ocean to their corresponding lobster and crab traps on the ocean floor. In fact 85% of Right Whales bear the scars of entanglement by these thick ropes. A remedy for this is to replace this type of trap with Ropeless fishing traps. These utilize GPS technology for location and identification. The other remedy would be to close the waters to lobster fishing, but this would harm the fishermen and therefore is not the preferred choice.

Beverly Greenwold, M.D.  
Phone: 617-448-7453

Sent from my Galaxy Tab A

**From:** [Drucker, Kenneth](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Right Whale Survival  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 10:52:12 AM

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I am writing to let you know how concerned we are about the decline in the Right Whale population. One of the best things that can be done is to stop the entanglements of Right Whales with fishing/lobster gear. Thank you for reading.

Kenneth M. Drucker-Attleboro, MA.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Francine Traniello](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 3:04:39 PM

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The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Francine Traniello  
Middleboro, MA 02346

**From:** [Kathleen Vadnais](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 2:59:43 PM

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Thank you.

Kathleen Vadnais  
Chicopee, MA 01020

**From:** [Joseph Bigler](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 2:54:47 PM

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Thank you.

Joseph Bigler  
Marysville, OH 43040

**From:** [Brenda Mueller-Lamore](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 2:52:16 PM

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Thank you.

Brenda Mueller-Lamore  
Belchertown, MA 01007

**From:** [Shelby Gale](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 2:40:03 PM

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Thank you.

Shelby Gale  
West Palm Beach, FL 33407

**From:** [Alexander Gray](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 2:37:33 PM

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Thank you.

Alexander Gray  
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

**From:** [Carol Craig](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 1:04:57 PM

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Thank you.

Carol Craig  
Harwich Port, MA 02646

**From:** [Annie Laurie](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 1:02:39 PM

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Thank you.

Annie Laurie  
Dracut, MA 01826

**From:** [Rebecca Bootka](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 12:56:57 PM

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Thank you.

Rebecca Bootka  
Naples, FL 34106

**From:** [Sheryle Tamagini](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 12:54:54 PM

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Thank you.

Sheryle Tamagini  
South Dartmouth, MA 02748

**From:** [Diane Petrillo](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 12:52:22 PM

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Diane Petrillo  
Hamden, CT 06518

**From:** [Rob Conrad](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 12:48:54 PM

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Rob Conrad  
Long Beach, CA 90805

**From:** [Jan Makkinje](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 12:46:36 PM

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Jan Makkinje  
Cambridge, MA 02138

**From:** [Kristin Gray](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 12:42:50 PM

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Thank you.

Kristin Gray  
Arlington, MA 02476

**From:** [Eileen Awsiukiewicz](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 12:38:48 PM

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Eileen Awsiukiewicz  
Rocky Hill, CT 06067

**From:** [Sarah Weiss](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 12:36:07 PM

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Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled twice or more. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining. Right whales could be extinct within our lifetime.

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Thank you.

Sarah Weiss  
Essex Junction, VT 05452

**From:** [Alice Moore](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 12:32:12 PM

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Thank you.

Alice Moore  
Rindge, NH 03461

**From:** [Suzanne Smith](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 12:27:36 PM

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Thank you.

Suzanne Smith  
Portsmouth, RI 02871

**From:** [jussi gamache](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 12:22:45 PM

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Thank you.

jussi gamache  
, 02144-2619

**From:** [Brenda Agnew](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 12:19:39 PM

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Brenda Agnew  
Haverhill, MA 01832

**From:** [Stephen Drabkin](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 12:17:09 PM

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Thank you.

Stephen Drabkin  
Nantucket, MA 02554

**From:** [Olivia Guerra](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 12:11:44 PM

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Olivia Guerra  
Yarmouth Port, MA 02675

**From:** [Gabriel Kornbluh](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 12:09:05 PM

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Gabriel Kornbluh  
Washington, DC 20009

**From:** [Robert Strelke](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 12:05:16 PM

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Robert Strelke  
North Easton, MA 02356

**From:** [Rain Harbison](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 12:02:41 PM

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Rain Harbison  
Nantucket, MA 02554

**From:** [Deborah Luciano](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 12:00:10 PM

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Deborah Luciano  
Stoneham, MA 02180

**From:** [Jay Munsey](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 11:55:12 AM

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Jay Munsey  
Buzzards Bay, MA 02532

**From:** [David Dragon](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 11:48:09 AM

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David Dragon  
Gardner, MA 01440

**From:** [Elektra Zolnoski](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 11:42:23 AM

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Elektra Zolnoski  
East Hardwick, VT 05836

**From:** [Scott Leonard](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 11:39:53 AM

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Scott Leonard  
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

**From:** [Beth Sullivan](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 11:36:18 AM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Beth Sullivan  
Hingham, MA 02043

**From:** [Claire Goldthwaite](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 11:32:40 AM

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Thank you.

Claire Goldthwaite  
Plymouth, MA 02360

**From:** [Katelyn Sullivan](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 11:28:22 AM

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Thank you.

Katelyn Sullivan  
Dorchester Center, MA 02124

**From:** [Dakota Fenn](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 11:24:21 AM

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Thank you.

Dakota Fenn  
Westwood, MA 02090

**From:** [Kevin Sullivan](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 11:21:51 AM

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Thank you.

Kevin Sullivan  
Plymouth, MA 02360

**From:** [Bethany Aiudi](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 10:59:41 AM

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Thank you.

Bethany Aiudi  
Dunnellon, FL 34434

**From:** [Michael Caputo](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 10:57:00 AM

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Thank you.

Michael Caputo  
Greenville, RI 02828

**From:** [Michael Haskell](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 10:51:49 AM

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Thank you.

Michael Haskell  
Scarborough, ME 04074

**From:** [Maria Donnell](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 10:48:40 AM

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Maria Donnell  
, 04106-5723

**From:** [Julie Leavitt](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 10:46:12 AM

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Julie Leavitt  
Newton, MA 02464

**From:** [Alexander Dugan](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 10:41:32 AM

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Alexander Dugan  
Northborough, MA 01532

**From:** [Jane Hersey](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 10:38:55 AM

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Jane Hersey  
Falmouth, ME 04105

**From:** [Gary Wolf Ardito](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 10:33:02 AM

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Gary Wolf Ardito  
Branford, CT 06405

**From:** [lenore sivulich](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
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lenore sivulich  
New Gloucester, ME 04260

**From:** [Shelley Hartz](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 10:25:51 AM

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Shelley Hartz  
Littleton, MA 01460

**From:** [Kim Wright](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 10:20:48 AM

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Kim Wright  
, 01821-3114

**From:** [Tony and Cindy Guarnieri](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 10:15:52 AM

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Thank you.

Tony and Cindy Guarnieri  
, 06905-2010

**From:** [Michelle Harrington](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 10:12:18 AM

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Thank you.

Michelle Harrington  
Harmony, ME 04942

**From:** [Carole Smudin](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 10:09:54 AM

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Thank you.

Carole Smudin  
Bridgewater, MA 02324

**From:** [Robin Covino](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 10:07:30 AM

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Thank you.

Robin Covino  
Milford, CT 06460

**From:** [katie lane](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 10:03:39 AM

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Thank you.

katie lane  
Somerville, MA 02145

**From:** [Beth Walters](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 10:00:28 AM

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Thank you.

Beth Walters  
Darien, GA 31305

**From:** [Carolyn OConnor](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 9:57:54 AM

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Thank you.

Carolyn OConnor  
Eastham, MA 02642

**From:** [Kathleen Wiley](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 9:55:49 AM

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Thank you.

Kathleen Wiley  
Norwell, MA 2061

**From:** [James de Crescentis](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 9:53:25 AM

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James de Crescentis  
Boston, MA 02118

**From:** [Sarah McCormack](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 9:49:42 AM

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Thank you.

Sarah McCormack  
Virginia Beach, VA 23455

**From:** [Mark Bordieri](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 9:44:36 AM

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Thank you.

Mark Bordieri  
Foxboro, MA 02035

**From:** [Andrea Spence](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 9:41:32 AM

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Andrea Spence  
Orleans, MA 2653

**From:** [robin.nadel](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 9:37:47 AM

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Thank you.

robin.nadel  
Branford, CT 06405

**From:** [Lozz Starseed](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 3:10:35 PM

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Thank you.

Lozz Starseed  
Lexington, MA 02420

**From:** [Brian Galvez](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** public comment of 1,700-lb Breaking Strength Contrivance (322 CMR 12.02 and 12.06)  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020 7:57:03 PM

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Hello,

I wanted to comment on the above proposed breaking strength rule. As per the quoted text below, I simply wanted to point out the typo (or what I believe to be) on the second mention of 1,700. The second sentence below states seventeen thousand pound - just wanted to make sure that the rule is not enacted with that value.

"DMF is proposing that all vertical buoy lines break when exposed to 1,700 pounds of pressure. This may be accommodated by fishing buoy lines with a **1.7000** pound breaking strength or by rigging the buoy line with a contrivance or multiple contrivances that allows for it to break at that pressure."

Regards,

--

Brian Galvez  
[briangalvez427@gmail.com](mailto:briangalvez427@gmail.com)  
619-694-9454

**From:** [Sharon Morgan](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 12:35:48 PM

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Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled twice or more. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining. Right whales could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Sharon Morgan  
Dedham, MA 02026

**From:** [Claire Coen](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 12:33:18 PM

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Claire Coen  
Marblehead, MA 01945

**From:** [Tim Fitzgerald](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 12:28:32 PM

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Tim Fitzgerald  
Westwood, MA 02090

**From:** [Morgan Lazenby](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 12:23:45 PM

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Morgan Lazenby  
Cambridge, MA 02139

**From:** [Deirdre Williams](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 12:18:02 PM

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Thank you.

Deirdre Williams  
Cohasset, MA 02025

**From:** [Ryan Schaefer](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 12:15:58 PM

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Ryan Schaefer  
Westwood, MA 02090

**From:** [Deborah Mauger](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 12:13:28 PM

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Deborah Mauger  
Wellfleet, MA 2667

**From:** [Lindsay Keith](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 12:08:43 PM

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Lindsay Keith  
West Bridgewater, MA 02379

**From:** [kim zhou](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 12:03:13 PM

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kim zhou  
Mc Lean, VA 22101

**From:** [Ranait Denihan](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 11:58:44 AM

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Ranait Denihan  
Manhasset, NY 11030

**From:** [Caroline Hoyt](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 11:54:04 AM

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Caroline Hoyt  
Locust Valley, NY 11560

**From:** [Helene Bank](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 11:51:33 AM

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Helene Bank  
Cambridge, MA 02139

**From:** [Jean Conway](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 11:46:28 AM

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Jean Conway  
Greenfield, MA 01301

**From:** [Sadhana Mandal](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 11:43:41 AM

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Sadhana Mandal  
Wellesley, MA 02482

**From:** [Susan Henderson](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 11:41:07 AM

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Susan Henderson  
Manchester, MA 01944

**From:** [Molly Warner](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 11:38:37 AM

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Thank you.

Molly Warner  
Dorchester Center, MA 02124

**From:** [Brock Cordeiro](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 11:36:06 AM

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The primary causes of death for right whales are ship strikes and entanglements: no right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled twice or more. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining. Right whales could be extinct within our lifetime.

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Thank you.

Brock Cordeiro  
Dartmouth, MA 02748

**From:** [Julia Andrus](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 11:30:08 AM

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Thank you.

Julia Andrus  
Northampton, MA 01062

**From:** [Karen Partridge](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 11:26:38 AM

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Thank you.

Karen Partridge  
Needham, MA 02492

**From:** [Linda Como](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 11:23:48 AM

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Thank you.

Linda Como  
Quincy, MA 02169

**From:** [Lozz Starseed](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 11:17:51 AM

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Lozz Starseed  
Lexington, MA 02420

**From:** [Shelagh Dean](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 11:15:22 AM

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Shelagh Dean  
Tewksbury, MA 01876

**From:** [Tim DeLouchrey](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 11:12:20 AM

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Tim DeLouchrey  
Westford, MA 01886

**From:** [Keri Sullivan](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 11:08:50 AM

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Keri Sullivan  
Allston, MA 02134

**From:** [Karun Kannan](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 11:04:18 AM

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Karun Kannan  
Westford, MA 01886

**From:** [Samantha Miller](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 11:01:34 AM

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Samantha Miller  
Allston, MA 02134

**From:** [Marie McGourty](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 10:58:58 AM

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Marie McGourty  
Westford, MA 01886

**From:** [David Sawyer](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 10:56:33 AM

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David Sawyer  
Cambridge, MA 02141

**From:** [Kristin Terry](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 10:52:17 AM

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Kristin Terry  
Boston, MA 02115

**From:** [Kai Long](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 10:47:59 AM

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Kai Long  
Fairfield, CT 06824

**From:** [Tessa McIntosh](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 10:44:42 AM

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Tessa McIntosh  
Brighton, MA 02135

**From:** [Liz Korycansky](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 10:41:42 AM

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CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed draft regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are ship strikes and entanglements: no right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled twice or more. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining. Right whales could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Liz Korycansky  
Allston, MA 02134

**From:** [Chris Delouchrey](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 10:38:11 AM

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Chris Delouchrey  
Westford, MA 01886

**From:** [Julie Bonette](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 10:33:46 AM

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Thank you.

Julie Bonette  
Hanover, NH 03755

**From:** [Kathleen Arruda](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 10:28:34 AM

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Thank you.

Kathleen Arruda  
Westport, MA 02790

**From:** [Gerri Petersen](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 10:23:58 AM

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Thank you.

Gerri Petersen  
, S7J 3E6

**From:** [Natalie Czelusniak](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 10:21:30 AM

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Natalie Czelusniak  
Allston, MA 02134

**From:** [Pamela Maguire](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 10:16:23 AM

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Pamela Maguire  
Kingston, MA 02364

**From:** [Stephen Billings](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 10:12:17 AM

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Stephen Billings  
Acton, MA 01720

**From:** [Kristen Elmes](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 10:09:57 AM

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Kristen Elmes  
Ashfield, MA 01330

**From:** [Kate Amel](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 10:07:27 AM

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Kate Amel  
Roslindale, MA 2131

**From:** [alysa m](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 10:04:53 AM

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Thank you.

alysa m  
, poo

**From:** [Hayes Oconnor](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 10:00:18 AM

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Hayes Oconnor  
Arlington, VA 22204

**From:** [Murali Menon](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 9:54:48 AM

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Murali Menon  
Lexington, MA 02420

**From:** [Lisa DeLouchrey](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 9:49:29 AM

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Lisa DeLouchrey  
Westford, MA 01886

**From:** [Ellie Gret](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 9:44:28 AM

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Ellie Gret  
New York, NY 10008

**From:** [Kaveesh Pathak](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 9:41:58 AM

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Thank you.

Kaveesh Pathak  
Lexington, MA 02420

**From:** [Holly Ryan](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 9:39:21 AM

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Holly Ryan  
Newton Center, MA 02459

**From:** [Lauren Ramos](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 9:33:58 AM

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Thank you.

Lauren Ramos  
Auburn, MA 01501

**From:** [Susanna Cerulli](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 9:30:55 AM

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Thank you.

Susanna Cerulli  
Westwood, MA 2090

**From:** [Owen Monahan](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 9:26:52 AM

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Thank you.

Owen Monahan  
, 2099

**From:** [Tim Van Bloem](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 9:24:22 AM

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Thank you.

Tim Van Bloem  
Boston, MA 02115

**From:** [Simra Abedi](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 9:21:34 AM

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Thank you.

Simra Abedi  
Plano, TX 75093

**From:** [Abigail Cutrumbes](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 9:18:18 AM

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Thank you.

Abigail Cutrumbes  
Dracut, MA 01826

**From:** [Emme Hauck](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 9:13:02 AM

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Thank you.

Emme Hauck  
South Lee, MA 01260

**From:** [Caroline Pinsky](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 9:09:49 AM

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Caroline Pinsky  
Sherborn, MA 01770

**From:** [Jim Leahy](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 9:07:18 AM

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Jim Leahy  
Boston, MA 2109

**From:** [Lee Brami](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 9:01:30 AM

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Lee Brami  
Lexington, MA 02420

**From:** [Aurora Grabill](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 8:58:36 AM

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Aurora Grabill  
Framingham, MA 01701

**From:** [Alfred Mancini](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 8:53:52 AM

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Alfred Mancini  
Tewksbury, MA 01876

**From:** [Samantha Wiseman](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 8:48:18 AM

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Samantha Wiseman  
Las Vegas, NV 89130

**From:** [ShelbySkye Pace](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 8:45:48 AM

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ShelbySkye Pace  
Delaware, AR 72835

**From:** [Brandy McCarthy](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 8:45:21 AM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are vessel strikes and entanglements: no adult or juvenile right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

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Thank you.

Brandy McCarthy  
Southampton, MA 01073

**From:** [Dennis Rogers](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020 8:40:28 PM

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Thank you.

Dennis Rogers  
Hubbardston, MA 01452

**From:** [Katrin Winterer](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020 8:36:40 PM

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Thank you.

Katrin Winterer  
Winchester, MA 01890

**From:** [Amy Murphy](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020 8:33:13 PM

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Thank you.

Amy Murphy  
Ormond Beach, FL 32176

**From:** [Molly Martony](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020 8:27:52 PM

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Thank you.

Molly Martony  
Mystic, CT 06355

**From:** [Terry Rogers](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020 8:25:24 PM

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Thank you.

Terry Rogers  
, 03079-2711

**From:** [Laura Wyeth](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020 8:21:15 PM

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Thank you.

Laura Wyeth  
Willimantic, CT 06226

**From:** [April Kelley](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020 8:18:39 PM

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April Kelley  
Derby, CT 06418

**From:** [LINDA RIENDEAU](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020 8:13:05 PM

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LINDA RIENDEAU  
Coventry, RI 02816

**From:** [Jeanie Cook](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020 8:07:46 PM

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Jeanie Cook  
Madison, CT 06443

**From:** [Danielle Soghoian](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020 8:05:14 PM

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Danielle Soghoian  
Mystic, CT 6355

**From:** [Janine Moore](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020 8:00:15 PM

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Janine Moore  
Waterville, ME 04901

**From:** [frances drescher](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020 7:58:05 PM

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frances drescher  
Wallingford, CT 06492

**From:** [Debra DeFurio](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020 7:52:51 PM

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Debra DeFurio  
Hebron, CT 06248

**From:** [Jeanette Herrington](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020 7:47:21 PM

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Jeanette Herrington  
Townsend, GA 31331

**From:** [Alice Carter](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020 7:44:50 PM

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Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled at least twice. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining and could be extinct within our lifetime.

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Thank you.

Alice Carter  
Cambridge, MA 2138

**From:** [kristin mortimer](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020 7:40:27 PM

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kristin mortimer  
Cambridge, MA 02138

**From:** [Yuen Li](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020 7:36:47 PM

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Yuen Li  
Westford, MA 01886

**From:** [Susan Worboys](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020 7:31:29 PM

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Thank you.

Susan Worboys  
Niantic, CT 06357

**From:** [Tom Murtha](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020 7:25:33 PM

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Thank you.

Tom Murtha  
Boston, MA 02115

**From:** [Nicole Mola](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020 7:23:02 PM

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Nicole Mola  
Plymouth, MA 02360

**From:** [Gayle Sirpenski](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020 7:18:51 PM

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Gayle Sirpenski  
Mystic, CT 06355

**From:** [David Mickelsen](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020 7:13:18 PM

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David Mickelsen  
Waltham, MA 02453

**From:** [Ruth Olschewske](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020 7:09:46 PM

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Ruth Olschewske  
Alton, NY 14413

**From:** [Oz diCampanetti](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020 7:04:22 PM

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Oz diCampanetti  
Worcester, MA 01605

**From:** [lauren miller-donnelly](mailto:lauren.miller-donnelly)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020 7:01:58 PM

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lauren miller-donnelly  
Westport, MA 02790

**From:** [Rebecca Earp](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020 6:59:13 PM

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Rebecca Earp  
Preston, CT 06365

**From:** [Pamela Oerth](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020 6:54:39 PM

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Pamela Oerth  
Georgetown, MA 01833

**From:** [Caroline Genther](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020 6:50:08 PM

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Caroline Genther  
Madison, CT 06443

**From:** [Randi Byron](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020 6:46:57 PM

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Randi Byron  
Avon, CT 06001

**From:** [Linda Cohen](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020 6:44:28 PM

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Linda Cohen  
West Tisbury, MA 02575

**From:** [Diego Moreno](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 12:40:41 PM

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Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled twice or more. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining. Right whales could be extinct within our lifetime.

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Thank you.

Diego Moreno  
Brighton, MA 02135

**From:** [WILLIAM G LACH](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** trap regulations  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020 7:08:37 PM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Dan, thanks for taking my question about line diameter. i would like to suggest keeping the line diameter for recreational traps at 3/8 the same as the proposal for the commercial traps. For inshore, recreational traps and commercial traps are side by side (commercial traps as singles). If the proposals are to limit whale entanglements I think that both types of trap lines should be the same. Smaller line diameters could also result in more ghost traps as these line could be more prone to breakoffs. I would also suggest moving the open season for recreational fishing to May 15th-Sept 15th. With global warming we have seen many more fall storms and since most recreational fisherman are closer to shore moving the date to Sept 15th might reduce the amount of traps lost to such storms in the fall thus reducing ghost traps.

Thanks for your time,  
Bill Lach

**From:** [Maya Sze](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Right Whale Comment  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 2:47:59 PM

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Dear Director McKiernan,

My name is Maya Sze, and I am a student at Tufts University and an Oceans Intern with Environment Massachusetts. I have loved the ocean for as long as I can remember. One of my most powerful memories was during my childhood, when my family went on a whale watch. As I scanned the horizon, a large tail lifted above the waves just yards from our boat. It was my first time seeing a whale in its natural habitat, and it's a sight I'll never forget. Whenever I reflect on why I love the ocean, that majestic image always comes to mind.

One of my favorite whale species is the North Atlantic Right Whale. It swims right off the coast where I live, and it never ceases to amaze me the strong bonds mothers form with their calves. Mothers use unique whispering tones to communicate with calves, facilitating this incredible bond.

It was incredibly saddening to learn that scientists recently estimated 366 left, which means we can only afford about one non-natural right whale death per year to avoid extinction. Tragically, in the past three years alone, humans were responsible for some 32 deaths, with vessel strikes and fishing gear entanglements ranking as top causes.

To prevent deaths like these and to save this amazing species, we need bold protective policy. Your proposed rule is a big step in the right direction. In particular, I support the expansion of closures to vertical line fishing throughout all Massachusetts waters from Feb. 1 – Apr. 30. With no vertical line in the water during these times, the risk of right whale entanglement is very much reduced.

In your final rule, I advocate for one revision. The Division of Marine Fisheries should include language that implements a pathway for the development and implementation of ropeless fishing gear. The draft regulations, which consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots, would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles. I'd like to finish by thanking the Division of Marine Fisheries for being a leader in saving right whales. I think that, if the DMF includes language about

ropeless fishing gear, these rules are a big step toward giving this special species a fighting chance.

We are on the brink of losing the North Atlantic right whale forever; before it's too late, we must act now by taking steps to prevent more right whale entanglements. I once again thank you for being a leader on this issue, ask you to make that revision, and thank you for allowing me to comment.

Best,

Maya Sze

[msze@environmentamerica.org](mailto:msze@environmentamerica.org)

**From:** [david walker](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Right Whales  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 5:22:32 PM

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Hello DMF,

Please believe the science. Studies have shown ropeless gear is ~95% effective in preventing entanglements. Science/technology is one of the hallmarks that makes the United States the greatest country in the world.

We have learned a terrible lesson when we ignore science with COVID. Please do not make the same mistake with the right whales who cannot advocate for themselves.

Thank you,  
David Walker

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [LA Dev](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Ropeless gear  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 4:16:21 PM

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Thank you.

**From:** [L.Dana](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Ropeless gear  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 3:48:25 PM

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Hello,

I think it is very important for you to consider ropeless gear as a necessity to preserve our right whale population. I hope that you consider supporting this as the way forward, especially with MA becoming a hotter spot for right whale

Dana  
Worcester, MA

**From:** [Emily Schipper](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Ropeless gear  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 7:18:33 PM

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Good evening,

I write to urge you to make the change to ropeless gear. This will have a huge impact. Are the difficulties and disruptions in making this change worth the extinction of an entire species of whale?

Best,  
Emily Vetter

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Jo-Ann Ferreira](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save endangered right whales  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 8:07:27 PM

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Hello,

Ropeless gear has a proven effect rate of 98.4% and can help prevent right whale entanglements. Please save these beautiful right whales from extinction. Right whales have been entangled at least once in their lifetime. Please ban rope fishing gear .

Concerned citizen,

Jo-Ann Ferreira

**From:** [Raina D'Orazio](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 4:27:33 PM

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Thank you.

Raina D'Orazio  
West Newbury, MA 01985

**From:** [Jessica Whitney](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 4:21:42 PM

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Thank you.

Jessica Whitney  
Milford, CT 06461

**From:** [Allison Tuttle](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 4:19:11 PM

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Thank you.

Allison Tuttle  
Mystic, CT 06355

**From:** [Natalie Hill](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 4:16:27 PM

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Thank you.

Natalie Hill  
Boston, MA 02115

**From:** [Aimee Sugrue](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 4:11:36 PM

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Thank you.

Aimee Sugrue  
Watertown, MA 02472

**From:** [Jennifer Rock](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 4:05:46 PM

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Thank you.

Jennifer Rock  
Wyoming, RI 02898

**From:** [Christine Barth](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 4:01:54 PM

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Thank you.

Christine Barth  
Stonington, CT 06378

**From:** [Martha Lockett](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 3:59:25 PM

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Martha Lockett  
Cambridge, MA 02140

**From:** [Brock Cordeiro](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 1:40:24 PM

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Brock Cordeiro  
Dartmouth, MA 02748

**From:** [Peg Herlihy](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 1:37:29 PM

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DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Peg Herlihy  
Newburyport, MA 01950

**From:** [Bob Bousquet](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 1:32:06 PM

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The primary causes of death for right whales are ship strikes and entanglements: no right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million miles of vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled twice or more. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining. Right whales could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

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Thank you.

Bob Bousquet  
Bryantville, MA 02327

**From:** [Anca Vlasopolos](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 1:29:40 PM

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Thank you.

Anca Vlasopolos  
Centerville, MA 02632

**From:** [Elana Katz rose](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 1:25:13 PM

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Thank you.

Elana Katz rose  
Sharon, MA 02067

**From:** [Andrea Ferguson](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 1:22:43 PM

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Thank you.

Andrea Ferguson  
Granby, MA 01033

**From:** [Diane Toomey](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 1:20:18 PM

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Thank you.

Diane Toomey  
Belmont, MA 02478

**From:** [Stephen Donnelly](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 1:16:21 PM

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Thank you.

Stephen Donnelly  
Easthampton, MA 01027

**From:** [Karen Vayda](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 1:11:48 PM

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Thank you.

Karen Vayda  
Southampton, MA 01073

**From:** [Deborah Spencer](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 1:07:25 PM

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Thank you.

Deborah Spencer  
Billerica, MA 01821

**From:** [Heather Pighetti](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 1:04:55 PM

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Heather Pighetti  
Westfield, MA 01085

**From:** [Jennifer Heilig](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 1:02:10 PM

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Thank you.

Jennifer Heilig  
Boston, MA 02127

**From:** [ron stillman](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 12:59:44 PM

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Thank you.

ron stillman  
West Springfield, MA 1089

**From:** [Ben Wishnie-Edwards](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 12:57:40 PM

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Ben Wishnie-Edwards  
Boston, MA 2127

**From:** [Annie Laurie](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 12:52:49 PM

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Annie Laurie  
Dracut, MA 01826

**From:** [Rachelle Jeanty](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 12:50:19 PM

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Rachelle Jeanty  
Randolph, MA 02368

**From:** [Coleman Hirschberg](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 12:46:28 PM

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Coleman Hirschberg  
Somerville, MA 02145

**From:** [Daniela Michanie](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 12:43:57 PM

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I am writing to express my concern about the proposed draft regulations created to reduce entanglement risks posed to North Atlantic right whales.

The primary causes of death for right whales are ship strikes and entanglements: no right whale has died of natural causes in the past 17 years. The East Coast has over one million miles of vertical lines that right whales must navigate through in order to feed, including in our state waters. These ropes pose a direct risk to our state marine mammal, the North Atlantic right whale.

Over 85% of right whales have been entangled at least once, and more than half of the population has been entangled twice or more. The population, which is estimated at 366, is rapidly declining. Right whales could be extinct within our lifetime.

Current enforced regulations require vertical buoy rope to be used when harvesting lobster. This must be revised entirely, in order for ropeless fishing to become legal in Massachusetts.

DMF must implement a pathway for permitting ropeless gear, as the draft regulations that consider using 1700 lb. breakable rope for fishing lines attached to trap pots would still pose a threat to right whale calves and juveniles.

Ropeless gear has been used all over the world by fishermen in Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and on the West Coast. During a data analysis of over 1,000 deployments of various models, ropeless fishing gear had a 98.4 percent success rate. While federal and state regulators have been studying ropeless gear to no avail for the past twenty years, multiple companies have worked with fishermen to manufacture gear that can be used by fishermen to fish today.

DMF must consider ropeless gear to save North Atlantic right whales. Ropeless gear is the technology of the future and the only long-term solution to reduce entanglements while keeping fishermen on the water. Please implement measures that incorporate ropeless gear pilot programs in order to save the right whale.

Thank you.

Daniela Michanie  
Waltham, MA 02453

**From:** [Nicole Dupree](#)  
**To:** [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)  
**Subject:** Save the Right Whale  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2020 4:32:09 PM

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Thank you.

Nicole Dupree  
Taunton, MA 02780