

From: [Kristy Nardone](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Save the Right Whale
Date: Friday, December 11, 2020 3:28:37 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.

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**

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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

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.¹

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.² 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.³ 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."

¹ See annual distributions at NOAA Right Whale Sighting Advisory System at: <https://apps-nefsc.fisheries.noaa.gov/psb/surveys/MapperiframeWithText.html>

² NOAA/NMFS 2020. North Atlantic Right Whale in: [U.S. Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Marine Mammal Stock Assessments, 2019 \(PDF, 479 pages\)](#)

³ 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.⁴ 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.⁵ 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.⁶ 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).

⁴ <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/proposed-amendments-to-division-of-marine-fisheries-regulations>

⁵ 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)

⁶ 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>



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, appearing to read "Sharon B. Young". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sharon B. Young
Senior Strategist, Marine Issues

From: [Silva, Jared \(FWE\)](#)
To: [Gilvarg, Craig \(EEA\)](#)
Cc: [Wall, Troy \(EEA\)](#)
Subject: FW: Cabinet Slides
Date: Thursday, December 10, 2020 4:07:00 PM
Attachments: [Cabinet Slide DMF Protected Species.pptx](#)

Slides here.

From: Silva, Jared (FWE)
Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2020 3:42 PM
To: McKiernan, Dan (FWE) <dan.mckiernan@mass.gov>
Cc: Glenn, Robert (FWE) <robert.glenn@mass.gov>
Subject: RE: Cabinet Slides

From: McKiernan, Dan (FWE) <dan.mckiernan@mass.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2020 1:58 PM
To: Glenn, Robert (FWE) <robert.glenn@mass.gov>; Silva, Jared (FWE) <jared.silva@mass.gov>
Subject: FW: Cabinet Slides

I could use some help with this

From: Wall, Troy (EEA) <Troy.Wall2@mass.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2020 1:57 PM
To: McKiernan, Dan (FWE) <dan.mckiernan@mass.gov>
Cc: Greco, Bob (FWE) <bob.greco@mass.gov>; Gilvarg, Craig (EEA) <Craig.Gilvarg@mass.gov>
Subject: RE: Cabinet Slides

Hi Dan,

Just checking in on this. Let me know if I can help.

Thanks!

Troy

From: Wall, Troy (EEA)
Sent: Wednesday, December 9, 2020 3:12 PM
To: McKiernan, Dan (FWE) <dan.mckiernan@mass.gov>
Cc: Greco, Bob (FWE) <bob.greco@mass.gov>; Gilvarg, Craig (EEA) <Craig.Gilvarg@mass.gov>
Subject: RE: Cabinet Slides

Hi Dan,

Could we get a slide that recaps the public hearings on the new lobster fishing / right whale regs and

next steps?

Thanks!

Troy

From: Wall, Troy (EEA)

Sent: Wednesday, December 9, 2020 11:56 AM

To: Ferrarese, Brian (DEP) <Brian.Ferrarese@mass.gov>; Cooper, Stephanie (DEP) <stephanie.cooper@mass.gov>; Connelly, Bridget (DCR) <bridget.connelly@mass.gov>; Ryan, Jacqueline (DCR) <jacqueline.ryan@mass.gov>; Ridlen, Jessica (ENE) <Jessica.Ridlen2@mass.gov>; Greco, Bob (FWE) <bob.greco@mass.gov>; Bouchard, Alisha (AGR) <alisha.bouchard@mass.gov>; Randle, Ashley (AGR) <Ashley.Randle@mass.gov>; Engler, Lisa Berry (EEA) <lisa.engler@mass.gov>; Marcelonis, Megan (EEA) <megan.marcelonis@mass.gov>; Rao, Vandana (EEA) <vandana.rao@mass.gov>; McKiernan, Dan (FWE) <dan.mckiernan@mass.gov>; Truschelli, Joseph M (DPU) <Joseph.M.Truschelli@mass.gov>; Zaltman, Alexandra (DPU) <Alexandra.Zaltman@mass.gov>; Connors, Nick (DCR) <Nick.Connors@mass.gov>

Cc: Gilvarg, Craig (EEA) <Craig.Gilvarg@mass.gov>; Healy, Sarah (EEA) <sarah.healy@mass.gov>

Subject: Cabinet Slides

Hi everyone,

I'm just sending a reminder about this week's cabinet book for the Secretary. I've attached the template for the slides, and here are the items for weekly updates:

- Drought
- DCR Parks Plan Update
- DCR/DFG Blue Hills Deer Hunt Slide (final results and their comparison to previous years)

I'll let you all know individually if there are additional requests for slides, as well. Please have slides to me by noon on Thursday.

Thanks,

Troy

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

RE: Proposed Regulations Affecting Trap and Gillnet Fishing

Dear Mr. McKiernan,

I attended the December 8th 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 on behalf of 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

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,

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

01-774-328-4473 (mobile)

From: Tyler Macallister <fvcynthiac@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, December 9, 2020 7:33 AM
To: 'jared.silva@mass.gov' <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 C²
(508) 221-8991 (m)
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

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

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

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

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 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>



[Acoustic Releases](#) | [USBL](#) | [MRU](#) | [Side Scan Sonars](#) | [Sub-bottom Profilers](#) | [Bathymetry](#) | [AUV & ROV Sonars](#) | [Combined & Customized Solutions](#)

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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

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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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.

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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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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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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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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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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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

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.

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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Thank you.

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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Thank you.

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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Thank you.

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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Thank you.

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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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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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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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.

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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Thank you.

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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Thank you.

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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Thank you.

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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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

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 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/rawl 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

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
To: [Silva, Jared \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Closing Lobstering
Date: Tuesday, December 8, 2020 10:52:37 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.

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
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Closing MA Lobstering
Date: Tuesday, December 8, 2020 10:55:10 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.

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

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 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 lead 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

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

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.

State....leave these guys alone.....your rules are bullshit

Sent from my iPad

From: 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

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,

Samantha Greene
133 Governors Ave
Medford, MA 02155

From: 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

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,

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

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

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 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 on behalf of 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

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,

Bonnie Faith-Smith
290A Washington Street
Cambridge, MA 02139

From: 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

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,

Lisi Brown
79 Newhall Street
Lynn, MA 01902

From: 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

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

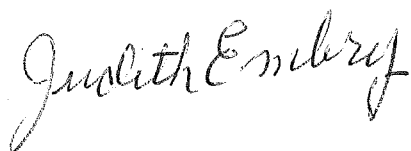
- Expanded closures for trap fisheries in all of Massachusetts waters.
- A new closed season for the buoyed recreational lobster and crab trap fishery.
- The DoMF retaining the ability to extend these closures based on North Atlantic right whale sightings.
- A marking system that will differentiate the 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 fishing.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on enhanced protections for the North Atlantic right whale. It is my hope

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

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

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

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

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.

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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

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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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

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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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

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.

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

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.

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

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](#)

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

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

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

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
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 <bmandigras@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 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

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 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

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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- 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.

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 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

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,

Jennifer Falcon
176 Lincoln Street, B3
Worcester, MA 01605

From: mailagent@thesoftedge.com on behalf of 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

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,

Jane Moosbruker
40 Brewster Ln
ACTON, MA 01720

From: mailagent@thesoftedge.com on behalf of 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 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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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 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

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,

James Greene
133 Governors Ave
Medford, MA 02155

From: 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

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,

Gail Repensek
58 Crystal Street
Haverhill , MA 01832

From: 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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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 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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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,

Kimberly Sheehan
896 Boston Road
Billerica, MA 01821

From: mailagent@thesoftedge.com on behalf of 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:

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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 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 on behalf of wpoooh78@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 on behalf of 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 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 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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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,

Matthew Gaffey
8 Harding Ave
Adams, MA 01220-1407

From: 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 on behalf of Lynnb@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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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 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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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,

Amy McCoy
280 Colrain Shelburne Road
Shelburne Falls, MA 01370-9671

From: 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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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,

Michael Stuart
11 Arlington Street
Auburn, MA 01501-2637

From: 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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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,

Karen Wright
15 Normandy Rd
Framingham, MA 01702-2301

From: mailagent@thesoftedge.com on behalf of 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

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.

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 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

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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,

Lonny LaChapelle
42r chapel street
Westfield, MA 01085-3010

From: 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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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.

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 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

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,

Daniel Belachew
392 Washington Street #2
Norwood, MA 02062

From: 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

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,

b coniglio
P.O. Box 281
Boston, MA 02117-0281

From: 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:

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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,

Danya Kuperstein
448 Wethersfield st
Rowley , MA 01969

From: 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

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,

Seamus Levine-Lukas
33 Sleigh Road
Chelmsford, MA 01824

From: 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

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,

linda lewison
79 boardley rd
sandwich, MA 02563

From: 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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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 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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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 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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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 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:

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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,

Julia French
4 Chapel St
Norwood, MA 02062

From: 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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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 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

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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,

Kathleen McHendry
281 Chauncey Walker Lot 105
Belchertown, MA 01007

From: mailagent@thesoftedge.com on behalf of 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:

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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.

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 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:

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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 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:

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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 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

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,

Marisa Shafer
4 colliston road
Brighton , MA 02135

From: 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

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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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 on behalf of 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:

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,

MaryAnna Foskett
101 Brantwood Rd
Arlington, MA 02476-8005

From: 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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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 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:

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,

Aaron Beer
15 Church St
Natick, MA 01760

From: 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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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,

Fanny Whitman
P O Box 191
Westport, MA 02791

From: 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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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,

Stephen Donnelly
6 Pinebrook Dr
Easthampton, MA 01027

From: 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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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,

Steve Ollove
105 Gregory Island Road
South Hamilton, MA 01982

From: 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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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,

Brenda Murphy
1438 Great Pond Road
North Andover, MA 01845

From: 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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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,

luana canale
10 brookside avenue
boston, MA 02130

From: mailagent@thesoftedge.com on behalf of 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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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,

Megan Lepore
93 Curtis Ave
Marlboro, MA 01752

From: 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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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,

Allison Ludtke
109A Lexington Street
Watertown, MA 02472

From: 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 on behalf of 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

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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,

Patrick Beaudry
192 stafford st
Worcester , MA 01603

From: 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:

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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,

Sonja Baris
86 Grove St
Clinton, MA 01510-3646

From: 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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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 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:

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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,

Deborah Goodman
65 Atherton Road, 1
Brookline, MA 02446-2770

From: 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:

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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,

Jane Luu
104 Simonds Rd
Lexington, MA 02420-1621

From: 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:

- ? 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,

Anna Stein
25 Harvard Street
Melrose, MA 02176-4814

From: mailagent@thesoftedge.com on behalf of 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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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 on behalf of 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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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 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:

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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.

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 on behalf of 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:

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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 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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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 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 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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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 on behalf of 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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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 on behalf of pismith2020@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 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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Sincerely,

Kevin Worker
153 Lions Mouth Rd
Amesbury, MA 01913

From: mailagent@thesoftedge.com on behalf of 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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Sincerely,

Diane Wildes
32 Coleman rd
Groveland, MA 01834-1021

From: 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

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Sincerely,

Virginia Jastromb
73 Barrett St.
Northampton, MA 01060

From: mailagent@thesoftedge.com on behalf of 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

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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 Storm
17 Lincoln Street
Norwood, MA 02062-2119

From: mailagent@thesoftedge.com on behalf of 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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Sincerely,

Betsy Mattuchio
94 Malvern st
Melrose, MA 02176-4827

From: 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 13th states the draft regulations are to “reduce the risk of entanglement.” Your Memo of Nov 13th 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 15th - April 30th, 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 30th.

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 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

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- 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,

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

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](#)

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¬if_t=feedback_reaction_generic&ref=notif

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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

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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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

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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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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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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Thank you.

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

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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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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Thank you.

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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Thank you.

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

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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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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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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Thank you.

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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Thank you.

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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Thank you.

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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Thank you.

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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Thank you.

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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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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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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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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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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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.

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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Thank you.

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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Thank you.

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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Thank you.

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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Thank you.

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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Jennifer Williams
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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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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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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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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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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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

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.

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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Thank you.

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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Thank you.

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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Thank you.

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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Thank you.

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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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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Thank you.

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

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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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.

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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Thank you.

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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Thank you.

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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Thank you.

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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Thank you.

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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Thank you.

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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Kelly Duarte
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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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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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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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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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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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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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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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Thank you.

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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Thank you.

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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Thank you.

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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Peter Kahigian
Haverhill, MA 01831

From: [Alan Papszun](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Save the Right Whale
Date: Sunday, December 6, 2020 5:52:07 PM

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Alan Papszun
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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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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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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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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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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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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Boston, MA 02127

From: [Jodi Cloney](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Save the Right Whale
Date: Sunday, December 6, 2020 5:27:29 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 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.

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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Thank you.

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 Papszun](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Save the Right Whale
Date: Sunday, December 6, 2020 5:11:11 PM

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Alan Papszun
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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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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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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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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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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Easthampton, MA 01027

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To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
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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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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 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

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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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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Thank you.

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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Thank you.

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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Thank you.

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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Thank you.

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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Thank you.

Sherry Weiland
Hudson, MA 01749

From: [Maggi Brown](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Save the Right Whale
Date: Sunday, December 6, 2020 4:17:54 PM

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Thank you.

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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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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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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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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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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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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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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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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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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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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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.

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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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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Thank you.

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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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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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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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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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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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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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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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

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.

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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Thank you.

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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Thank you.

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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Thank you.

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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Thank you.

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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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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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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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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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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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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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.

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

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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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.

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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Thank you.

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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Thank you.

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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Thank you.

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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Thank you.

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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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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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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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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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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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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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: [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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Thank you.

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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Thank you.

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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Thank you.

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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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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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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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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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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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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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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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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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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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

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.

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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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 don't think that you want NARW to go extinct due to your lack of effort - that would be very sad.

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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Thank you.

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

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

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.

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

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 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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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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Thank you.

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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Thank you.

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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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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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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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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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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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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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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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.

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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Thank you.

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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Thank you.

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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Thank you.

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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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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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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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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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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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

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.

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
Date: Tuesday, December 8, 2020 10:28:22 AM

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Thank you.

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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Thank you.

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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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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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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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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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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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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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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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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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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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.

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

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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Thank you.

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

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 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
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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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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Thank you.

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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Thank you.

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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Thank you.

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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Thank you.

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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Thank you.

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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Thank you.

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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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.

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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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.

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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Thank you.

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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Thank you.

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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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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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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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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Thank you.

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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Thank you.

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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Thank you.

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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Thank you.

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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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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Thank you.

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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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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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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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

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.

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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Thank you.

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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Thank you.

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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Thank you.

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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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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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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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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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.

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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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Thank you.

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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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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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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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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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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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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Mystic, CT 06355

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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Thank you.

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

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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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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Thank you.

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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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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Thank you.

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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Thank you.

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](#)
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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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.

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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Thank you.

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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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.

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.

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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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: [Silva, Jared \(FWE\)](#)
To: [Gilvarg, Craig \(EEA\)](#)
Cc: [Wall, Troy \(EEA\)](#)
Subject: RE: Cabinet slide
Date: Thursday, December 10, 2020 3:43:00 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

I just sent it back to Dan. You guys should have it shortly.

From: Gilvarg, Craig (EEA) <Craig.Gilvarg@mass.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2020 3:38 PM
To: Silva, Jared (FWE) <jared.silva@mass.gov>
Cc: Wall, Troy (EEA) <Troy.Wall2@mass.gov>
Subject: Cabinet slide

Hi Jared,

Dan told me you're working on a slide with some information on the right whale regs. Just checking in on the status of that – thanks very much for your help.

Best,
Craig

Craig Gilvarg

Press Secretary

Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900, Boston, MA 02114

Office: 617-626-1126 / Mobile: 617-372-6704



From: [Silva, Jared \(FWE\)](#)
To: [McKiernan, Dan \(FWE\)](#)
Cc: [Glenn, Robert \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: RE: Cabinet Slides
Date: Thursday, December 10, 2020 3:42:00 PM
Attachments: [Cabinet Slide DMF Protected Species.pptx](#)

From: McKiernan, Dan (FWE) <dan.mckiernan@mass.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2020 1:58 PM
To: Glenn, Robert (FWE) <robert.glenn@mass.gov>; Silva, Jared (FWE) <jared.silva@mass.gov>
Subject: FW: Cabinet Slides

I could use some help with this

From: Wall, Troy (EEA) <Troy.Wall2@mass.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2020 1:57 PM
To: McKiernan, Dan (FWE) <dan.mckiernan@mass.gov>
Cc: Greco, Bob (FWE) <bob.greco@mass.gov>; Gilvarg, Craig (EEA) <Craig.Gilvarg@mass.gov>
Subject: RE: Cabinet Slides

Hi Dan,

Just checking in on this. Let me know if I can help.

Thanks!
Troy

From: Wall, Troy (EEA)
Sent: Wednesday, December 9, 2020 3:12 PM
To: McKiernan, Dan (FWE) <dan.mckiernan@mass.gov>
Cc: Greco, Bob (FWE) <bob.greco@mass.gov>; Gilvarg, Craig (EEA) <Craig.Gilvarg@mass.gov>
Subject: RE: Cabinet Slides

Hi Dan,

Could we get a slide that recaps the public hearings on the new lobster fishing / right whale regs and next steps?

Thanks!
Troy

From: Wall, Troy (EEA)
Sent: Wednesday, December 9, 2020 11:56 AM
To: Ferrarese, Brian (DEP) <Brian.Ferrarese@mass.gov>; Cooper, Stephanie (DEP)

<stephanie.cooper@mass.gov>; Connelly, Bridget (DCR) <bridget.connelly@mass.gov>; Ryan, Jacqueline (DCR) <jacqueline.ryan@mass.gov>; Ridlen, Jessica (ENE) <Jessica.Ridlen2@mass.gov>; Greco, Bob (FWE) <bob.greco@mass.gov>; Bouchard, Alisha (AGR) <alisha.bouchard@mass.gov>; Randle, Ashley (AGR) <Ashley.Randle@mass.gov>; Engler, Lisa Berry (EEA) <lisa.engler@mass.gov>; Marcelonis, Megan (EEA) <megan.marcelonis@mass.gov>; Rao, Vandana (EEA) <vandana.rao@mass.gov>; McKiernan, Dan (FWE) <dan.mckiernan@mass.gov>; Truschelli, Joseph M (DPU) <Joseph.M.Truschelli@mass.gov>; Zaltman, Alexandra (DPU) <Alexandra.Zaltman@mass.gov>; Connors, Nick (DCR) <Nick.Connors@mass.gov>
Cc: Gilvarg, Craig (EEA) <Craig.Gilvarg@mass.gov>; Healy, Sarah (EEA) <sarah.healy@mass.gov>
Subject: Cabinet Slides

Hi everyone,

I'm just sending a reminder about this week's cabinet book for the Secretary. I've attached the template for the slides, and here are the items for weekly updates:

- Drought
- DCR Parks Plan Update
- DCR/DFG Blue Hills Deer Hunt Slide (final results and their comparison to previous years)

I'll let you all know individually if there are additional requests for slides, as well. Please have slides to me by noon on Thursday.

Thanks,
Troy

From: [Maya Sze](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Right Whale Comment
Date: Thursday, December 10, 2020 2:47:59 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,

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

From: [david walker](#)
To: [Fish, Marine \(FWE\)](#)
Subject: Right Whales
Date: Thursday, December 10, 2020 5:22:32 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 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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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: [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

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 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

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,

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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Thank you.

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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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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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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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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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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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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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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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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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

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.

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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Thank you.

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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Thank you.

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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Thank you.

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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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