



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

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Draft Ropeless Roadmap: A Strategy to Develop On-Demand Fishing

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Draft Ropeless Roadmap: A Strategy to Develop On-Demand Fishing

Overview

1. Review the goals of the Ropeless Roadmap
 - Why is a roadmap needed?
 - Purpose of this document
2. Describe contents of the Roadmap
 - On-demand gear testing and adoption
 - Regulatory changes needed
3. Discuss next steps and future
 - Soliciting feedback from the public
 - Plans for engagement with stakeholders

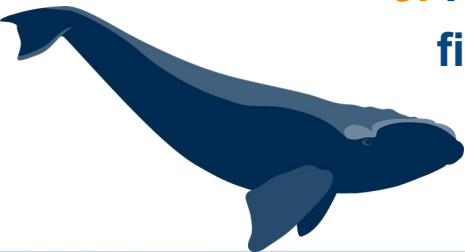


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Key Points Up Front



- 1. The Ropeless Roadmap lays out one possible path forward**
- 2. Input and guidance from everyone involved will improve our outlook**
- 3. This document does not envision on-demand fishing for everyone, everywhere**



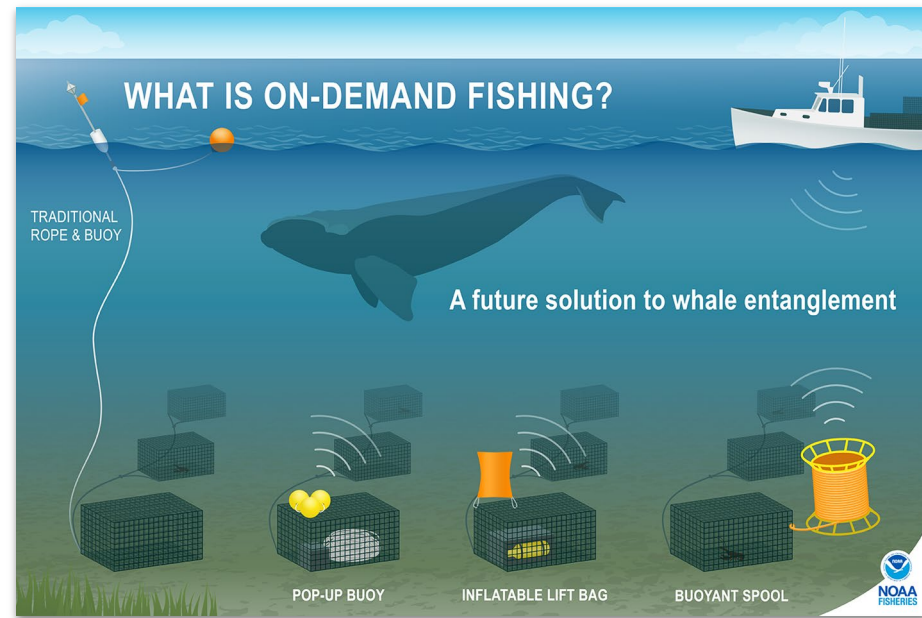
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Why a Ropeless Roadmap?

- To respond to the urgent conservation crisis facing North Atlantic right whales
- To provide a vision of on-demand fishing gear adoption throughout fixed gear fisheries in our region
- To align partners and stakeholders in understanding technological and regulatory changes needed

Purpose of the Ropeless Roadmap

- To begin a conversation on how on-demand gear will be tested and adopted under new and existing regulatory frameworks
- To clarify what roles marine mammal and fisheries management stakeholders play in the development of on-demand fishing
- To collect and incorporate feedback from key partners and from the public on our next steps



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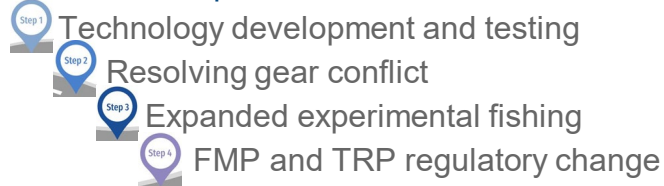
Ropeless Roadmap Outline

On-Demand Fishing Gear

- What is on-demand fishing gear?
- Why is on-demand fishing gear needed?
- Availability of on-demand fishing gear

Using On-Demand Fishing Gear

- Regulatory requirements
- Steps of development:



Where is On-Demand Fishing Gear Needed?

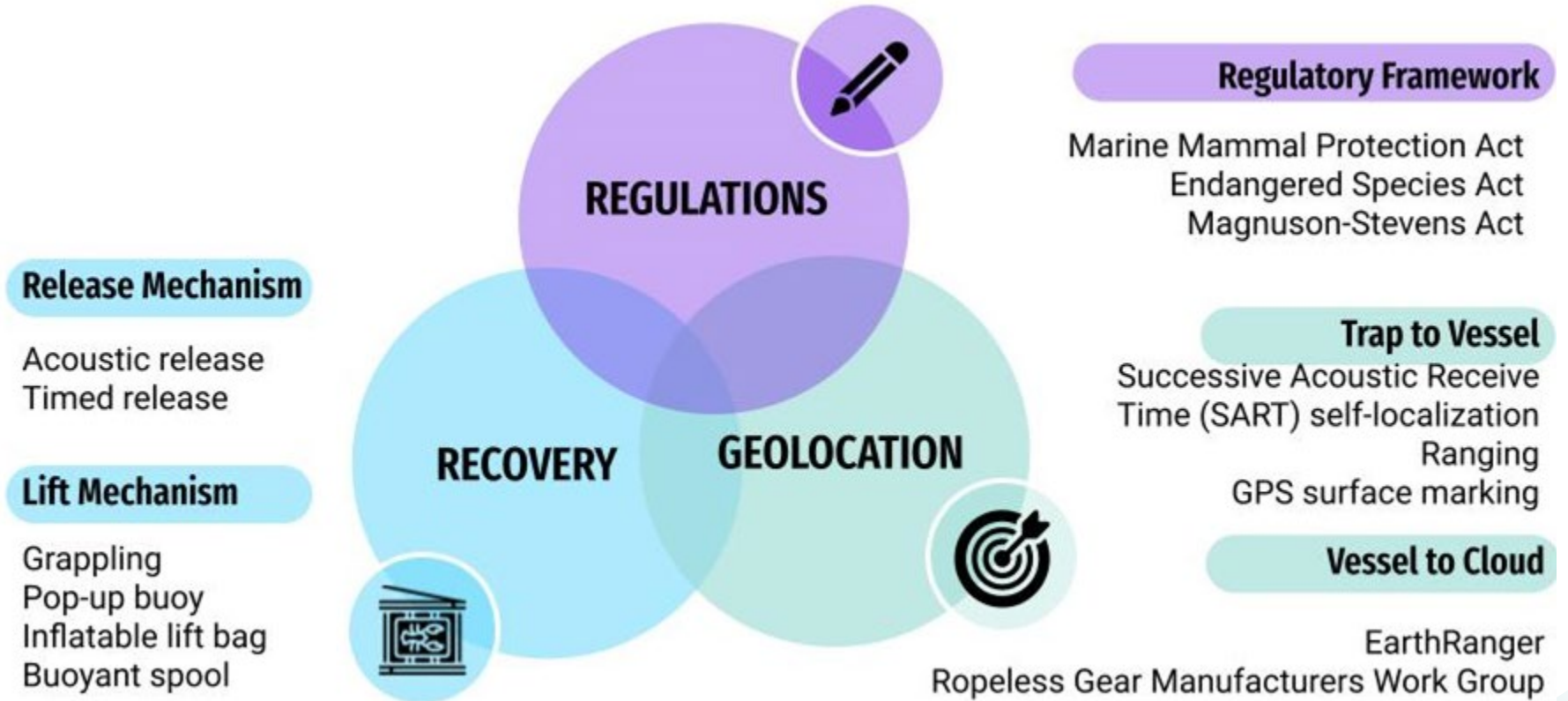
- Areas currently (and potentially proposed to be) restricted under the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan

Locating Deployed On-Demand Fishing Gear

- Current developments in interoperable geolocation technologies
- NOAA supports open-source/nonproprietary geolocation technologies



The Development of On-Demand Fishing



On Demand Roadmap: **Four Steps Toward Broader Adoption**



Step 1: Technology Development and Testing

Gear Research Development Cycle Partnerships

Working with industry throughout the entire documentation, design, and testing phases

is essential to achieve a working solution and increases industry ownership



1 Identify Problem

All partners help identify gear innovation projects

2 Bycatch Analysis

Scientists determine the spatial and temporal extent of the bycatch interactions

3 Gear Design

Fishermen and scientists collaborate on modified gear design to reduce bycatch

4 Pilot Study

Fishermen and scientists test the feasibility of the proposed gear modifications

5 Test Gear

Fishermen and scientists test the experimental gear, and redesign as needed

6 Experimental Fishery

Observers track gear effectiveness in an experimental fishery

7 Scientific Guidance

Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) makes scientific recommendations

8 Decision Making

NMFS/Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office makes policy decisions

Ongoing in 2022:

- Working together with fishermen to trial on-demand systems via EFPs and LOAs
- Continue to accelerate research, development, and refinement of systems



Step 2: Resolving Gear Conflict



Beginning in 2022:

- Testing effectiveness of geolocation software and cloud database systems
- Testing feasibility of surface marked positions and using acoustics to increase precision of gear position on seafloor
- Open source/non-proprietary geolocation technologies
- Potential for allowing marking 1 end of trawl or gillnet

Step 3: Expand Experimental Fishing



2023 and beyond:

- Exempted Fishing Permits to test on-demand fishing technologies and practices at larger scales
- Potential scenarios:
 - Single line trawls
 - Limited access to closures

Step 4: Fishery Management Plan and Other Regulatory Changes

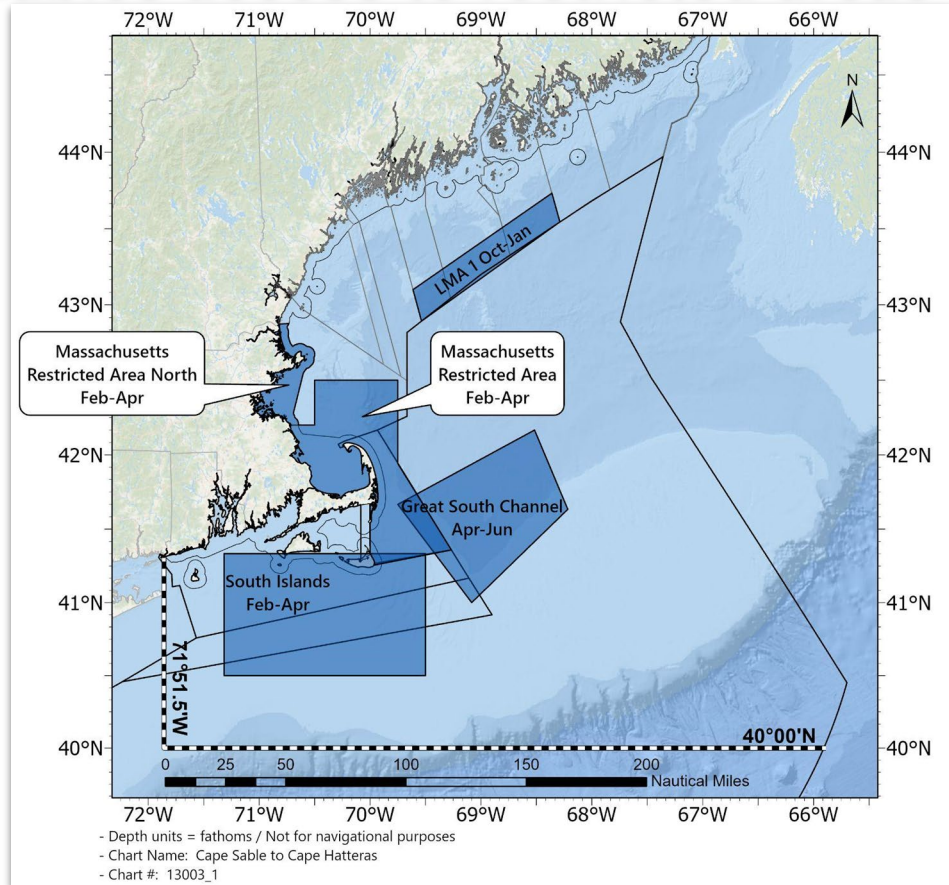


2023 and beyond:

- Engage and coordinate with stakeholders
- Vision for future regulatory action must be adaptable
- Consider stepwise approach to changes supporting on-demand fishing

On-demand fishing enables access to restricted areas

- Restricted areas closed to vertical lines are an effective tool to remove entanglement risk
- On-demand fishing provides access to otherwise restricted areas (trap/pot restricted areas at right)
- On-demand gear will increasingly be important for fishing in current (and any proposed future) restricted areas



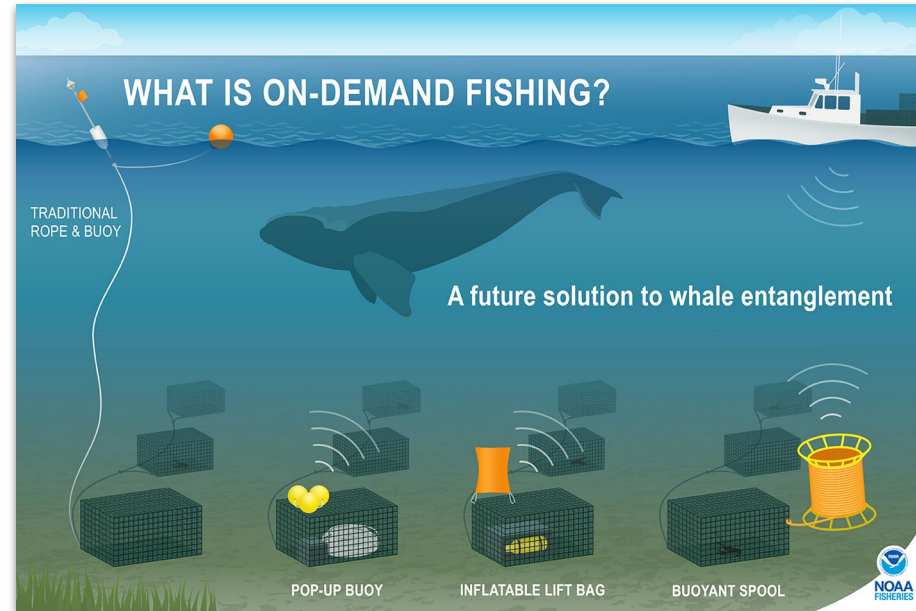
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Summary

- Roadmap outlines NOAA's goals and intentions to engage with partners
- On-demand fishing shows promise in allowing fishing in otherwise restricted areas
- More testing, experimental fishing, and regulatory change is needed
- Stakeholder support is critical to success


Next Steps

- Engagement with industry on Roadmap through the ALWTRT and other state partners
- Continued engagement in fisheries management through ASMFC, NEFMC, MAFMC, and SAFMC
- Feedback form open through December 31, 2022



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Seeking Feedback from the Public



NOAA

NOAA's Roadmap to On-Demand Fishing

NOAA's Roadmap to On-Demand Fishing is intended for a broad audience to serve as a plan for future research, engagement, and policy change to enable the continued development of on-demand fishing. We welcome feedback on this document to incorporate the perspectives of all stakeholders involved in these processes and to ensure that all voices are heard to help guide our next steps. We intend to revise the roadmap over time and would like it to serve as a living document to provide our vision for proceeding through this rapidly evolving landscape. Please submit your feedback below.

* Required

Email *

We are collecting feedback from partners and stakeholders through December 31, 2022

Visit us at <https://bit.ly/3GH0ldE> or use the QR code below to submit feedback.

