



New England Fishery Management Council

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Rick Bellavance, *Chair* | Cate O'Keefe, PhD, *Executive Director*

MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 10, 2025
TO: On-Demand Fishing Gear Conflict Working Group (ODWG)
FROM: Michael Pierdinock, ODWG Chair
SUBJECT: Charge to the Working Group for July 23, 2025 Meeting

There will be an On-Demand Fishing Gear Conflict Working Group (ODWG) meeting on July 23, 2025, via webinar from 9:00 am to 1:30 pm. See here to register: <https://www.nefmc.org/calendar/jul-23-2025-on-demand-fishing-gear-conflict-working-group-webinar>

Agenda Topics

1. Updates regarding on-demand fishing related activity
2. Address TOR 3B by developing recommendations for the Council
3. Other business

Meeting Topics

This table outlines topics to be discussed at the meeting, including a description of the topic, discussion questions, and related documents.

Topic		Document #	Description & Discussion Questions
Updates regarding on-demand fishing related activity		4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Receive an update on the joint alternative gear marking framework being developed by NEFMC and MAFMC, led by GARFO.• Receive additional updates, as available.
Addressing Term of Reference 3B by developing recommendations to the Council	Satellite Connectivity Cost Analysis and Options	3,5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Is constant real time data necessary for all user groups, or could there be a rate at which vessels can access data that would still provide adequate information (i.e., ping once an hour, once every 30 minutes)?• Are there certain areas (i.e., of high gear density) where vessels would need continuous updates, versus others where more intermittent updates would be sufficient?
	Potential on-demand fishing gear activity	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What could the potential footprint of on-demand fishing gear be?• What might gear density look like in various areas?
	Vessel maneuverability and requirements for visibility	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How close could various types of vessels get to on-demand fishing gear before needing to adjust their path to avoid gear?• What is the minimum distance of visibility necessary for various types of vessels to avoid gear conflict?

	Strategies for alerting vessels to on-demand fishing gear presence	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What strategies could be employed to make fishing vessels aware of on-demand fishing gear presence?
	TOR 3B Report Discussion, Develop Recommendations	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop recommendations to include in the TOR 3B report for reducing gear interactions between on-demand gear used in the Northeast lobster and Jonah crab fisheries and other types of fishing gear. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the ODWG have any recommendations for the Council regarding reducing gear interactions between on-demand gear used in the Northeast lobster and Jonah crab fisheries and other types of fishing gear? What additional information or analyses does the ODWG need to support or further develop recommendations?
Other Business		3	Members of the ODWG can bring forward other business not included in the agenda for discussion.

Meeting Materials

The documents listed below will be posted to <https://www.nefmc.org/calendar/jul-23-2025-on-demand-fishing-gear-conflict-working-group-webinar>. If you have any questions about the materials, please contact Emily Bodell (ebodell@nefmc.org; 978-465-0492 x105).

1. Agenda
2. Tasking Memo from Working Group Chair Michael Pierdinock (this document)
3. Presentation, Council Staff
4. Alternative Gear Marking Framework Presentation, GARFO Staff
5. [Unlocking Ropeless Fishing: A Satellite-Driven Path to Sustainable Fisheries](#)