

Reducing Entanglement Through Take Reduction Plans



Take Reduction Teams (TRTs) are groups of stakeholders, including commercial fishermen, who meet to assist NOAA's Fisheries Service to recover or prevent the depletion of marine mammals that are incidentally seriously injured or killed in Category I or II fisheries (i.e., fisheries with frequent or occasional interactions with marine mammals). These teams develop strategies and/or Take Reduction Plans (TRPs) to reduce entanglements of marine mammals in particular types of fishing gear. These may include regulations and are often accompanied by non-regulatory conservation measures, such as outreach and gear research projects. There are five TRTs and four TRPs that may apply to fishermen on the Atlantic coast:

Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan (ALWTRP)

ALWTRP regulations are intended to reduce the serious injury & mortality of the right, humpback & fin whales in commercial gillnet and trap/pot fisheries from Maine through Florida. The ALWTRP was recently modified to regulate additional trap/pot & gillnet fisheries, establish new gear modification & marking requirements (e.g. sinking groundline, weak links, gillnet anchoring, buoy & buoy line marking), & implement a number of other regulatory changes. NOAA Fisheries Service is currently discussing a strategy to further reduce risk associated with vertical lines with the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team (ALWTRT). For more information visit the ALWTRP web page at www.nero.noaa.gov/whaletrp/.



Harbor Porpoise Take Reduction Plan (HPTRP)

HPTRP regulations are intended to reduce the serious injury and mortality of the Gulf of Maine/Bay of Fundy stock of harbor porpoises in Northeast sink gillnet and Mid-Atlantic gillnet fisheries from Maine through North Carolina. NOAA Fisheries Service reconvened the Harbor Porpoise Take Reduction Team (HPTRT) in December 2007 to address recent increases in harbor porpoise mortalities in the New England and Mid-Atlantic regions. The HPTRT recommended a number of further modifications to the HPTRP, which are intended to lower harbor porpoise interactions with these fisheries to acceptable levels. NOAA Fisheries Service implemented modifications to the HPTRP in March 2010. For more information, visit the HPTRP web page at www.nero.noaa.gov/porptrp/.

Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Plan (BDTRP)

NOAA Fisheries Service convened a the Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Team in 2001 to address the serious injury & mortality of the Western North Atlantic coastal bottlenose dolphin stock incidental to nine Category I and II fisheries from New Jersey through the east coast of Florida. The final BDTRP was published on April 26, 2006, with an effective date of May 26, 2006. On December 19, 2008, a final rule was published amending the BDTRP by continuing nighttime medium mesh fishing restrictions in North Carolina state waters during the winter until May 26, 2012. For more information, visit the BDTRP web page at: www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/interactions/trt/bdtrp.htm



Atlantic Trawl Gear Take Reduction Strategy (ATGTRS)

NOAA Fisheries Service convened the Atlantic Trawl Gear Take Reduction Team (ATGTRT) to develop consensus recommendations for a take reduction strategy to reduce the serious injury & mortality of pilot whales, common dolphins, & Atlantic white-sided dolphins from interactions with various Atlantic trawl fisheries. In December 2008, the ATGTRT developed an Atlantic Trawl Take Reduction Strategy (ATGTRS) that identifies research needed to address these marine mammal interactions in trawl fisheries, as well as related education & outreach activities. The ATGTRS includes a monitoring component to track the status of the various marine mammal stocks of concern & the implementation of the Strategy. NOAA Fisheries Service, in cooperation with industry, developed a guide which includes voluntary measures to reducing marine mammal interactions in Atlantic trawl fisheries. For more information, visit the ATGTRT web page at www.nero.noaa.gov/prot_res/atgtrp/. You may also contact the industry liaison for your area (listed under ALWTRP) with specific questions about the voluntary measures.



Pelagic Longline Take Reduction Plan (PLTRP)

In 2006, NOAA Fisheries Service convened the Pelagic Longline Take Reduction Team to address the serious injury and mortality of short-finned pilot whales, long-finned pilot whales, and Risso's dolphins in the mid-Atlantic portion of the Atlantic pelagic longline fishery. On May 19, 2009, a final rule to implement the Pelagic Longline Take Reduction Plan was published. The plan includes a special research area, gear modifications, outreach material, observer coverage, and captains' communications. For more information, visit the PLTRP web page at: www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/interactions/trt/pl-trt.htm.



Atlantic Fisheries Affected by Take Reduction Teams/Plans

[Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan](#)

Northeast sink gillnet
Northeast anchored float gillnet
Northeast drift gillnet
Mid-Atlantic gillnet
Southeast Atlantic gillnet
Southeastern U.S. Atlantic shark gillnet
Northeast/Mid-Atlantic American lobster trap/pot
Atlantic blue crab trap/pot
Atlantic mixed species trap/pot

[Atlantic Trawl Gear Take Reduction Team](#)

Northeast bottom trawl
Northeast mid-water trawl (including pair trawl)
Mid-Atlantic mid-water trawl (including pair trawl)
Mid-Atlantic bottom trawl

[Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Plan](#)

Atlantic blue crab trap/pot
Mid-Atlantic gillnet
North Carolina inshore gillnet
Southeast Atlantic gillnet
Southeastern U.S. Atlantic shark gillnet
Mid-Atlantic haul/beach seine
North Carolina long haul seine
North Carolina roe mullet stop net
Virginia pound net

[Harbor Porpoise Take Reduction Plan](#)

Northeast sink gillnet
Mid-Atlantic gillnet

[Pelagic Longline Take Reduction Plan](#)

Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico
large pelagics longline