

**Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team
Maine Subgroup Meeting
July 16, 2008
Eastland Park Hotel
Portland, ME**

DRAFT AGENDA

Meeting Purpose:

Discuss the State of Maine's proposal for an area specific sinking groundline exemption.

Meeting Framework:

This working group will assist the State of Maine in the development of a sinking groundline exemption proposal within specified Maine waters. The subgroup will review and provide constructive feedback to the State of Maine on their proposal in order to ensure that the goals and objectives of the ALWTRP are maintained should an exemption from the sinking groundline requirement be considered by the full ALWTRT and ultimately, NMFS. Based upon the best available information, any sinking groundline exemption proposal within Maine waters must be limited to Maine state waters east of Pemaquid Pt. (i.e. Lobster Zones A-D). NMFS anticipates holding at least two working groups meetings before referring any proposal to the full ALWTRT for consideration.

- 9:00-9:30AM** **WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND GETTING ORGANIZED (NMFS)**
- Review meeting purpose and round robin greeting
 - Opening comments
 - Review and confirm agenda and ground rules
- 9:30-12:00PM** **PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF MAINE PROPOSAL (NMFS and Working Group)**
(WITH BREAK)
- Objective: Provide framework and consider Maine proposal.*
- NMFS provides context for discussions (NMFS)
 - Maine provides overview of proposal (Maine DMR)
 - Discussion of proposal (NMFS and Working Group)
- 12:00-1:00PM** **LUNCH**
- 1-4:30 PM** **CONTINUATION OF MORNING DISCUSSIONS**
(WITH BREAK)
- 4:30-4:45PM** **NEXT STEPS (NMFS and CONCUR)**
- Recap of meeting and review next steps
 - Discuss next Working Group meeting (if needed)
 - Recommended dates and locations?
 - Other issues?
- 4:45-5:00** **OPPORTUNITY FOR NON-TRT MEMBERS TO COMMENT**
5:00 **ADJOURN**