There is significant interest in growing responsible marine aquaculture industry in New England. Marine aquaculture offers benefits to coastal communities through job opportunities and the production of local food. The growth of seaweed and shellfish aquaculture in particular has been a particular focus, since these sectors may provide additional ecosystem benefits, such as improving water quality by filter feeding organic matter out of the water column, or local reductions in ocean acidification impacts due to carbon uptake from photosynthesis. However, a key issue is the potential risk of harmful interactions between aquaculture gear and marine wildlife, including critically endangered North Atlantic right whales (NARW). The growth of current types of aquaculture production systems, such as longlines used for shellfish and seaweed culture, would increase the number of vertical and horizontal lines in the water column and may add to the cumulative risks of trap fisheries that are already driving right whales to the point of extinction. Approaches and methods to reduce the risk that marine aquaculture may pose to NARW are nascent, and dialogue between the NARW Consortium community and the aquaculture industry may be limited. This presentation is an introduction to the types of aquaculture production systems that have already been introduced in New England waters, as well as potential future gear types. It will include information on rare but documented harmful interactions between large whales and global marine aquaculture, while also touching on current measures being proposed to reduce the risk of harmful interactions. Finally, it will outline opportunities for NARW consortium members to engage in the dialogue regarding the expansion of marine aquaculture within the right whale range.