**Elevations of lobster fishery groundlines in relation to entanglement risk to North Atlantic right whales in Atlantic Canada**

Elevations of groundlines for fixed-gear fisheries along the Scotian Shelf and the Gulf of St. Lawrence have not been studied. Calibrated depth recording sensors were used to measure the elevations of groundlines above the seafloor for 34 floating and 4 neutrally buoyant groundlines on 10 different lobster trawls in four areas along the Scotian Shelf and Gulf of St. Lawrence for at least 24 hours/ 2 tidal cycles each, resulting in 21,423 elevation measurements. The trawls consisted of between 4 and 15 traps and were deployed in depths between 4.8 and 73.2 m. Elevations of floating line between traps ranged from 0 to 6.8 m. Using a combinatorial test, we rejected the hypothesis that floating groundlines remain below 1 m most of the time (P < 0.01; 45% of observations) but also rejected that they exceed 3 m most of the time (P < 0.01; 10% of observations). The neutrally buoyant groundlines between traps ranged from 0 to 2.0 m above the bottom. Factors affecting these elevations (e.g. trawl configurations, environmental conditions) were also examined to identify factors within control of fish harvesters that could reduce groundline elevations. We briefly address the relative conservation value of groundline management with respect to mitigating entanglement risk to NARW.