

APPENDIX B

Sinking Rope Meeting Survey Results (March 2011)

39 respondents
Downeast Maine: 14
Midcoast Maine: 17
Southern Maine: 3
NH: 2
Area 3: 3

Range of rigging

8% (3) singles, but also either pairs or triples
28% (10) pairs
18% (7) pairs and triples
33% (13) trawls
15% (6) combination of all configurations

Greatest number of traps lost in a single month?

Average: 18, Lowest: 0, Highest: 60

Biggest challenge in fishing sinking groundline (*several participants gave more than one response; % indicates how many respondents experienced this issue*):

51% (20) Hang downs (especially on long sets)
31% (12) Wears out fast/cost
21% (8) Safety/operational issues (changing rope on board, snarls, catches everything)
18% (7) lost traps
15% (6) Chafe
15% (6) Parting off
5% (2) Given up fishing bottom
5% (2) None
2% (1) Noise

Where or why have you had the least challenge fishing sinking rope?

69% (27) Mud, gravel or soft bottom
10% (4) Always a problem
3% (1) Hard bottom
3% (1) Like the rope
15% (6) Did not respond

What changes in how or where you fish?

33% (13) shorten length of groundline (several raised safety concerns with this approach)
23% (9) move to softer bottom or edges of bottom

13% (5) sized up rope
5% (2) fish singles on hard bottom
5% (2) change rope often
3% (1) move to shallower water
3% (1) more wire on bottom of trap to prevent chafe
15% (6) Did not respond

How long do you plan to fish sinking groundline?

Average just under 3 years
Min a couple of months
Max 10 years

How long did you fish floating groundline?

Average 8 years
Minimum 1 year
Max 20 years

Have you encountered safety issues? (*several participants identified a safety issue gave more than one response; % indicates how many respondents experienced this issue*)

36% (14) No
23% (9) handling/vessel issues (difficult on deck, broke hauler and window, hit in face with snapped rope, lost boot after caught in rope, lost a thumb, tangles, wrapped around trap)
18% (7) hang downs
13% (5) boulders/rocks in hauler
13% (5) parting off in snarls
5% (2) grappling back