



**The Bottom Line Project
A Voluntary Maine Poly Groundline Exchange
2008 Survey and Registration Form**

Almost 1200 Maine lobstermen responded to the Bottom Line survey we sent in early 2007, and 130 of you brought rope in for the May 2007 rope exchange. Whether you already sent in a survey and/or brought in rope, please return this survey so that we can determine who will participate, how much rope will be brought in, and where to hold the collections for the 2008 Bottom Line Project. Rope collections will take place during the months of March, April and May 2008, depending on participation levels.

1. Name _____ Maine Permit # _____
Zone/s fished _____ Do you hold a Federal Lobster Permit? Y N (circle one)

2. Do you fish _____ singles *If you only fish singles, you are not eligible to participate in the groundline exchange.*

Check all that apply; indicate length of rope between traps.

_____ pairs; length of rope between traps (tailers) _____ Ft / Fath
_____ triples; length of rope between traps (tailers) _____ Ft / Fath Circle Feet or Fathoms
_____ trawls; # traps per trawl _____ length of rope between traps _____ Ft / Fath
_____ other configuration; please describe _____

3. If you fish pairs, triples, or trawls, do you currently use poly on your groundlines/tailer warps? Y N

4. The Gulf of Maine Lobster Foundation has a limited amount of funding to offer economic assistance to Maine lobstermen who want to comply with the ban on floating groundlines/tailer warps outside of the exemption line. With limited funds, the Bottom Line Project will be conducted on a first-come, first-served basis. Do you want to participate in the 2008 Bottom Line Project by exchanging your poly groundlines/tailer warps for a voucher toward the purchase of sink rope, in order to comply with the new federal Whale Rule?

- _____ Yes.
- _____ No, I only fish singles.
- _____ No, I do not agree with the program.
- _____ No, I already use sink rope on my groundlines/tailers.
- _____ No, I brought all my used poly in during the 2007 rope collection .

If you answer YES, continue with the survey. If you answer NO, please return the survey now, after having filled in questions 1-4.

5. If Yes, *approximately* how much used poly would you return for recycling?

- _____ Feet / Fathoms (circle one)
- OR _____ Pounds
- OR _____ Trays/Totes
- OR _____ 55-gal Drums

Regardless of how much rope you estimate, all poly must be prepared for collection the same way: hand-wound into coils that can be easily tossed.

6. In order to participate in the Bottom Line Project, you must be fishing pairs, triples or trawls OUTSIDE of the new exemption line. For both state lobstermen and federal permit holders, please refer to the enclosed map of the Whale Rule exemption line when responding to this question: Estimate the number of traps you are fishing

- a) INSIDE the exemption line: _____ traps
- b) OUTSIDE the exemption line but inside state waters (three-mile line): _____ traps
- c) OUTSIDE of state waters (in federal waters): _____ traps

If your gear is all fished inside the exemption line, you may not be eligible to participate in the program.

7. Rope manufacturers and distributors are concerned about having enough sink rope available when you bring your voucher in to purchase sink rope. If you have thought about what brand and size of sink rope you will be purchasing to replace your poly, please list all types here. We will collect the information you provide to help the rope manufacturers, distributors and dealers prepare for this industry-wide shift in rope usage.

- Rope brand #1 _____ Diameter _____ Approx. # coils _____
- Rope brand #2 _____ Diameter _____ Approx. # coils _____
- Rope brand #3 _____ Diameter _____ Approx. # coils _____

Survey Deadline: Please return this survey to GOMLF by January 5, 2008.

Thank you for completing the survey. Please fold it so the GOMLF mailing address shows and mail it back.