

August 14, 2000

From: Ship Strike Committee,
National Marine Fisheries Service s Implementation Teams
for the Recovery of the Northern (North Atlantic) Right Whale

Shipping companies, port authorities, pilots, other maritime interests, conservation and scientific groups, State and Federal agency representatives, and other interested parties are invited to attend regional briefings to discuss the problem of ship strikes and the northern right whale. Each briefing will discuss the regional problem of right whales and ship strikes, management and education measures to date, and regional management options under consideration by the Ship Strike Committee. The purpose of these briefings are two fold: 1) to educate interested parties on the problems of right whales and ship strike, and 2) to solicit input, suggestions, and guidance, on the prevention of ship strikes.

Date: September 13, 2000
Time: 10:00 AM to 2:00PM*
Location:
Seamen's Church Institute
118 Export Street
Port Newark, NJ USA

*buffet lunch

Date: September 14, 2000
Time: 9:00 AM to 1:00PM
Location:
Science Center Room, Building 2
National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, Maryland USA

Date: September 28, 2000
Time: 10:00 AM to 2:00PM*
Location:
Georgia Ports Authority
Ocean Terminal facility
Conference room
River Street (north end)
(near the Talmadge Bridge)
Savannah, Georgia USA

*buffet lunch

Date: October 5, 2000
Time: 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM
Location:
National Marine Fisheries Service
Northeast Regional Office
One Blackburn Drive
Gloucester, Massachusetts USA

The Ship Strike Committee's paper entitled "Discussion Draft: Right Whales & Ship Management Options" identifies a range of management *options* which would impose operating restrictions on vessels operating in high-risks areas. In the Southeast U.S., high-risk areas include all ports and the area from Port Canaveral, Florida to the Virginia / North Carolina border. In the mid-Atlantic, these areas include all ports from Norfolk to NY/NJ. In the Northeast U.S., these areas include all ports from Long Island and Block Island Sounds, north to Canada. Management options from the above-mentioned paper will be discussed at each of the scheduled meetings. The paper is posted at <http://www.nero.nmfs.gov/whaletrp/>.

Please RSVP Bruce Russell at 301 656 1751 or barussell@erols.com, and if you need further information on the meeting or Discussion Draft Management Options paper.

