

Read, A.J., S.D. Kraus, K.D. Bisack, and D. Palka. 1993. Harbor porpoises and gill nets in the Gulf of Maine. *Conservation Biol.* 7(1):189-193.

Abstract:

In many areas of their range, harbor porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*) populations are either depleted or in decline; incidental catches in commercial fisheries are often implicated as a factor in these declines. Harbor porpoises have disappeared from parts of the Baltic Sea, the southern North Sea, and portions of the central California coast. In other areas, such as western Greenland, the Gulf of St. Laurence, and Newfoundland, incidental catches are large enough to warrant concern. In general, our understanding of harbor porpoise demography is insufficient to determine whether the populations are capable of sustaining current levels of removals. Harbor porpoises have been studied intensively in the Bay of Fundy and Gulf of Maine since 1969. Large incidental catches in commercial fisheries are known to occur in this area and, in this account, we review current knowledge and status of this population.