

- Research related to reducing risk associated with vertical lines

Important data gaps include development of the following:

1. Lipid soluble rope that would quickly deteriorate if it came in contact with a whale.
2. Device to reduce the separation between buoys in the surface system of buoy line.
3. Mechanical time release which holds the buoy and buoy line on the bottom for a predetermined length of time and then releases the buoy allowing it to float to the surface with the buoy line.
4. Device to store and release buoy line on the ocean bottom such as through an acoustic release, galvanic time release or mechanical time release.
5. Thwartable bottom link, located at the bottom of a buoy line, that will act as a weak link until the gear is ready to be hauled. At that time the device is switched from a weak link mode to a strong link mode, allowing the gear to be hauled.
6. Continue with field testing of Time tension line cutter bottom release units and improve handling and safety concerns. Time tension line cutters are located at the bottom of a buoy line, that will release the buoy line from the bottom gear after a predetermined load and time period have been exceeded.