

# The Farallon Newsletter

## **RESPONDING TO FISHERMEN'S NEEDS DURING ZONE CLOSURES**



*Smart Buoy installed on On-Demand gear during zone closure*

*Photo Credit: Fisherman from Massachusetts*

**Use During EFPs:** Smart Buoys have been used in the New England lobster fishery for several years, both at the surface to track gear in real-time and with on-demand gear to provide information on when and where gear surfaces. This Spring we were excited to play a central role in the Experimental Fishing Permit (EFP) that allowed a number of lobstermen to fish in two large zones that were closed for North Atlantic Right Whales. During this closure from Feb-May, up to 30 vessels were granted EFPs that allowed fishing in closed areas. Smart Buoys provided a critical function in the successful use of on-demand gear by alerting fishermen in real-time when gear

resurfaced and highlighting any unexpected movement from the original point of deployment.

**Evolving Smart Buoys:** Over the course of the EFP period, Blue Ocean Gear worked closely with fishermen to implement critical feedback to improve the utility of the buoys.

- We were able to refine the timing of the buoys, providing more accurate location and time data when gear surfaced (see more about this in the Product Tip section below).
- A new SMS alert was added to notify fishermen when on-demand gear is at the surface for an extended period of time, which can happen when gear pops up unexpectedly due to various circumstances.

This new SMS feature was inspired by a fisherman who expressed the need to know if his gear had surfaced early in order to take action as quickly as possible.

Implementing this change quickly offered the EFP fishermen a greater peace of mind and confidence in their knowledge of what is happening on the water with their gear, and even when they were back onshore.

## PRODUCT TIP: CONFIGURING BUOY TIMING



The Smart Buoy is designed to function with various fisheries and gear types. It is currently being used on fixed pots, drifting longlines, deep-set buoy gear, on-demand gear, and in aquaculture farms. Smart buoys can be configured to match the unique ways of fishing per fishery and gear type. Position and transmission updates, sensor timings, battery life optimization, and fast modes for hauling; all of these parameters

can be custom configured to match your needs. Please [contact](#) Blue Ocean Gear staff to learn more.

Remember, we provide additional tools to control your Smart Buoy. For example, using the [Buoy Locator](#) mobile app, the Smart Buoy can be moved into "Fast Update" mode prior to setting out to haul gear.

**To learn more about the company, click [here](#)**

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