

Conducting scientific research projects that support sustainable fisheries, aquaculture, and agriculture

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## Research Cruise Summary Report 2024

Project Name:	Surveying commercial fish species and habitat in wind farm areas using a suite of non-lethal survey methods
Vessel Name:	F/V Never Enough
Departure Date:	9/23/2024
Land Date:	9/23/2024
Port:	New Bedford Coal Pocket Pier
Chief Scientist:	Liese Siemann
Scientific Crew:	Luisa Garcia, Tasha O'Hara, Farrell Davis, Rob Morris
Report Completed by:	Liese Siemann

### STUDY AREA

The study area and trap locations are shown in **Figure 1**.

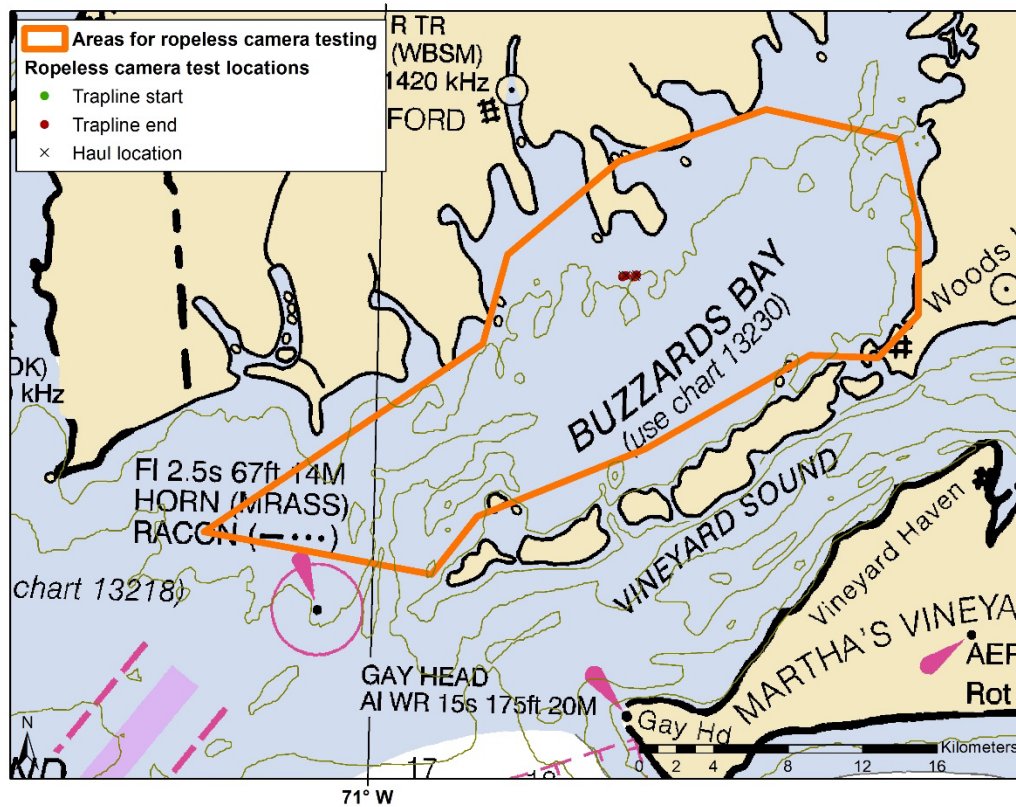


Figure 1. Locations in Buzzards Bay where ropeless traps were tested.

## CRUISE OBJECTIVE

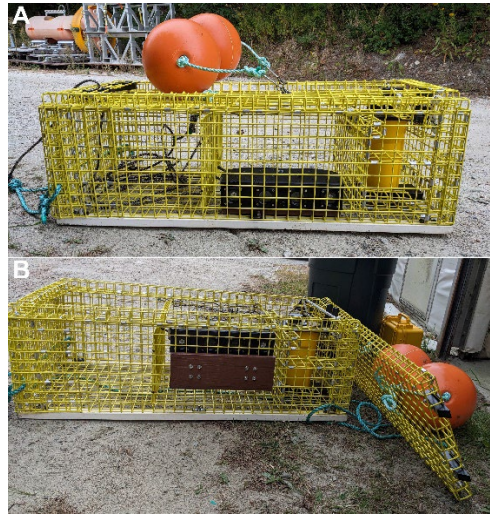
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Receive training to use and test ropeless gear and test Sexton custom cameras and mounts in the field.

## OBSERVATIONS

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Cameras were mounted in two different locations in the traps (**Figure 2**). The traps flipped quickly and landed on the seafloor in the correct location. Testing occurred after a storm when the water was extremely turbid and water clarity was low, so the imagery could not be used to determine the best location for the cameras.



*Figure 2. Locations of Sexton cameras during tank and field testing.*

If the cameras are mounted low with the attachment on the bottom, any screws will need to be countersunk in the attachment material to not interfere with trap deployment.

## RESULTS

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- Four trap deployments were completed, and project PIs were able to participate in all steps of the process (marking trap set location using the Trap Tacker app, handling the acoustic transducer, releasing the floatation on the traps with the Trap Tracker app, reloading the line in the traps).
- A second day of testing will occur in spring 2025 when the new versions of the cameras are received.