

## Colored lobster rope could be safer for whales

March 2 2014, by Blake Davis

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In this March 27, 2009 file photo, a lobsterman throws additional fishing rope onto a pile in Rockland, Maine. Researcher Scott Kraus said at the annual Maine Fishermen's Forum in February 2014 in Rockland, that preventing endangered North Atlantic right whales from becoming entangled in lobster gear could be as simple as changing the color of the rope. (AP Photo/Pat Wellenbach, File)

(AP)—A researcher says preventing endangered North Atlantic right whales from becoming entangled in lobster gear could be as simple as changing the color of the rope.

Right whale researcher Scott Kraus says he and others set out three years ago to determine whether whales sense some colors better than others. He says their tests indicate right whales respond most to red and orange.

He outlined the research at the Maine Fishermen's Forum, an annual fishing industry event that draws together fishermen, regulators, researchers and other industry officials.

Michael Moore is director of the marine mammal center at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. He says the research makes [sense](#) because even though whales see in black-and-white the clouds of [zooplankton](#) upon which they feed are orange.

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