

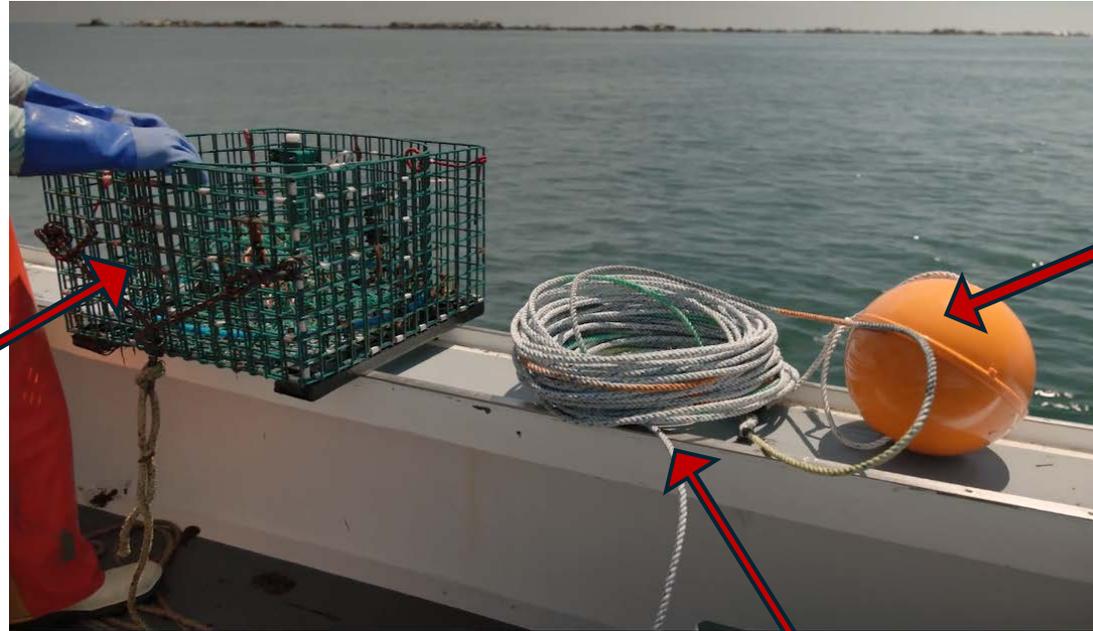
Sub Sea Sonics / Guardian Ropeless Systems On-demand Fishing Gear

- Step by Step Guide 2025
- Also see video instructions at www.neaq.org/ropeless *



**References to specific on-demand gear companies do not constitute endorsement, promotion, or recommendation of. We will be adding additional company-specific instructional information as it becomes available.*

Sub Sea Sonics/Guardian Ropeless: Unit Components, 1 of 2



Cage –
rope and buoy
are packed in
here, as are the
mechanical
components

Rope –
Coiled inside the unit until
the buoy is released.
Keeps the buoy attached
to the cage.

Lift buoy –
Held inside the cage
until released. When
released, buoy floats
unit to surface.

SSS/Guardian: Unit Components, 2 of 2

Tensioner – keeps drawstring tension so that mesh bag stays closed until string is released

Turning mechanism
– white cam rotates when acoustic signal is received to release drawstring that cinches mesh bag closed



D-ring – mesh bag drawstring runs through here first after being cinched

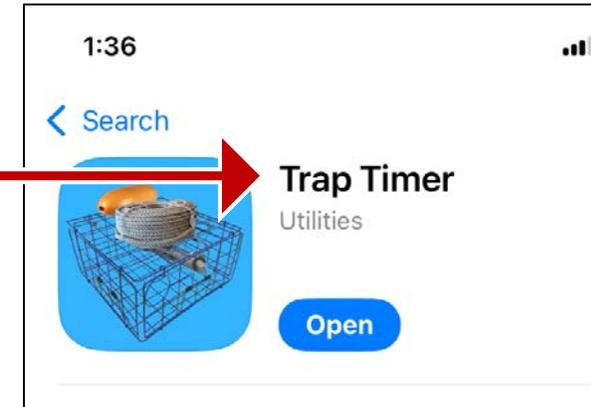
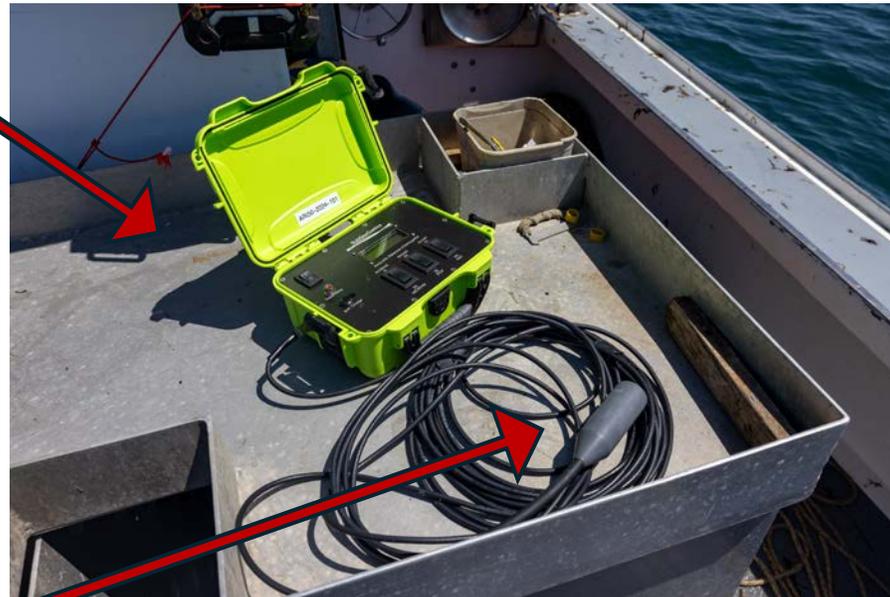
Mesh bag-ring – drawstring runs through here to cinch mesh bag closed and keep buoy enclosed

SSS/Guardian: Accessories

Deck box – allows for communication between transducer and mobile app

Transducer* – deployed off the side of the vessel and communicates via an acoustic signal with the unit on the seafloor

Trap Timer mobile app– interface for plotting gear location and initiating acoustic release of gear



* Transducer shown here is a “dunk” transducer, but there are also “through hull” transducers that are mounted right on the hull of the vessel.

SSS/Guardian: Prepping Gear, Steps 1-5 of 10

- 1) **Coil the rope outside the cage.**
- 2) **Hang the mesh on the hooks at the corners of the cage.**
- 3) **Rotate the white cam so that the lip is facing 180° from the drawstring.**
- 4) **Lay the coil inside the mesh bag so that it sits on the bottom of the cage. Make sure it is right side up.**
- 5) **Nestle the buoy in the center of the coil, as pictured.**



SSS/Guardian: Prepping Gear, Steps 6-7 of 10

6) Remove mesh from hooks .

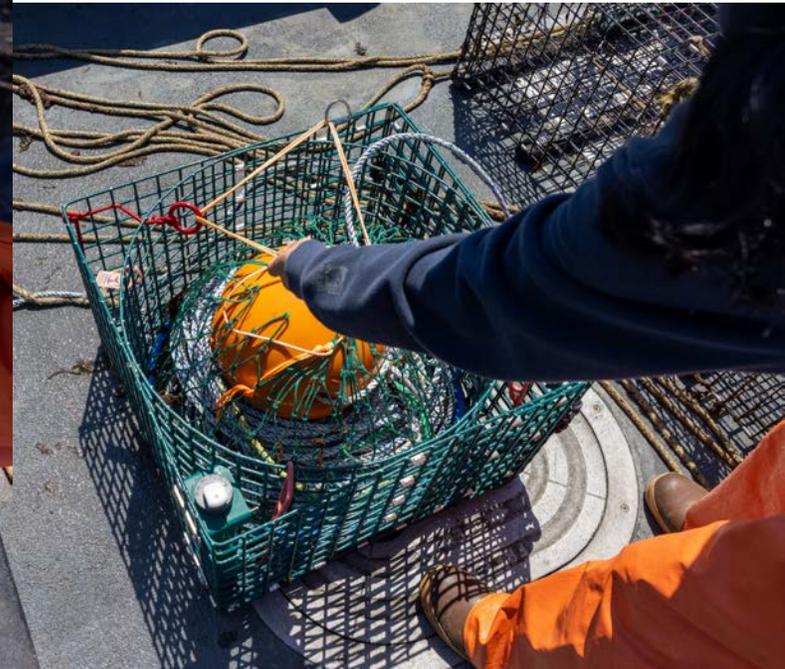


7) Cinch cord through mesh bag ring so that bag closes over the buoy and holds it in.



SSS/Guardian: Prepping Gear, Steps 8 of 10

8) Pull cord through metal D-ring, then through round red tensioner.



SSS/Guardian: Prepping Gear, Steps 9-10 of 10

9) Adjust cam so that the lip is heading in the opposite direction of where the cinch cord is coming from.



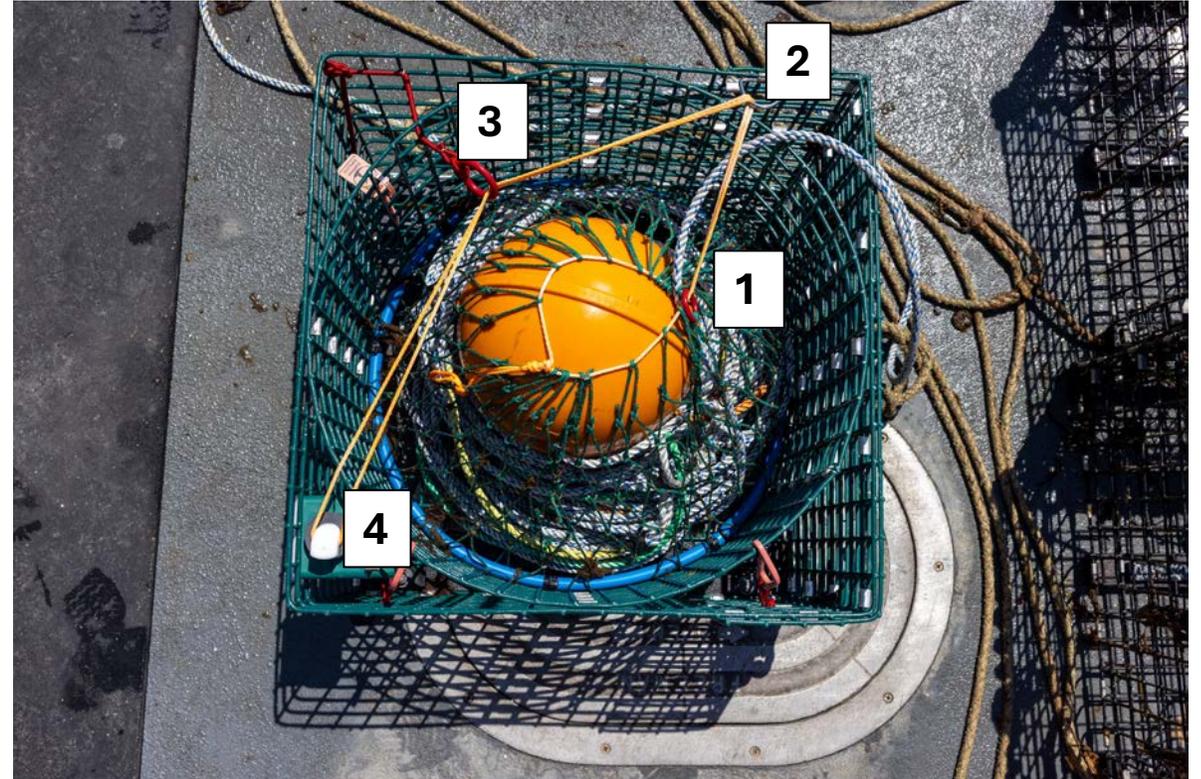
10) Hang loop end of cinch cord around lip of cam, so it holds.



Ready to start fishing!

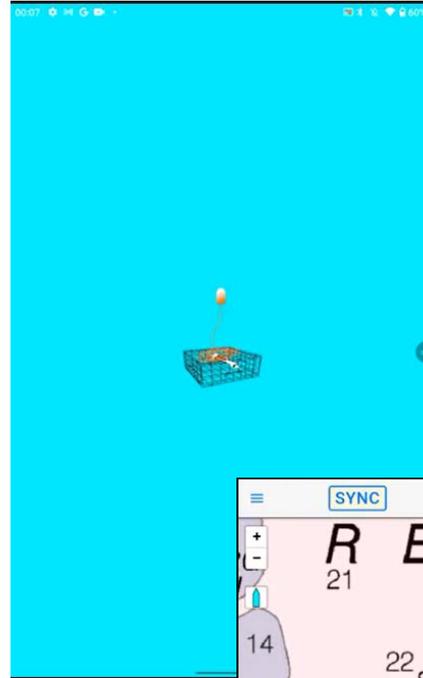
SSS/Guardian: Prepping Gear

This shows the order in which the cinch cord goes



SSS/Guardian: Setting Gear, Steps 1-3 of 8

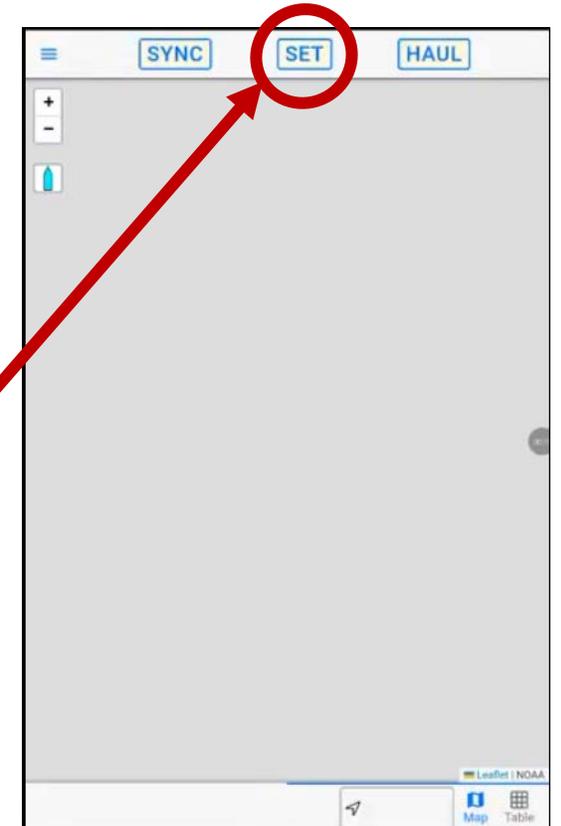
1) Open the Trap Timer app



2) Check the area to make sure you will not be setting over other fishermen's gear



3) Hit the "Set" button in the top middle of the screen



SSS/Guardian: Setting Gear, Step 4 of 8

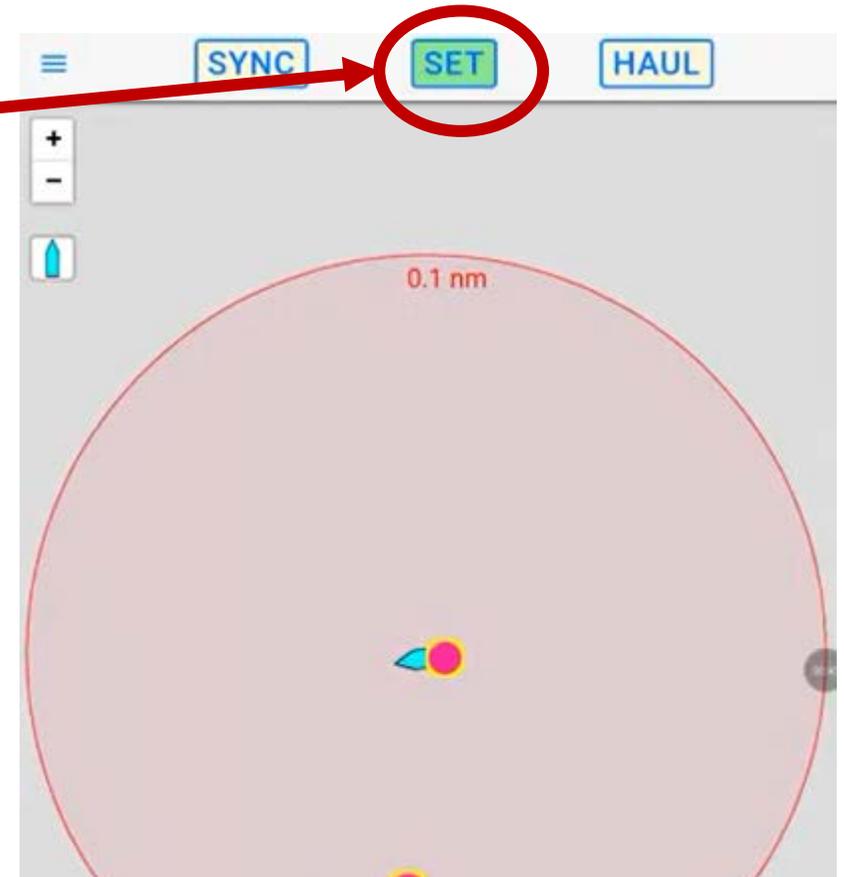
4) Deploy the gear and hit the “Set First End No Popup” button on the app as the first trap goes overboard



SET FIRST END NO POPUP

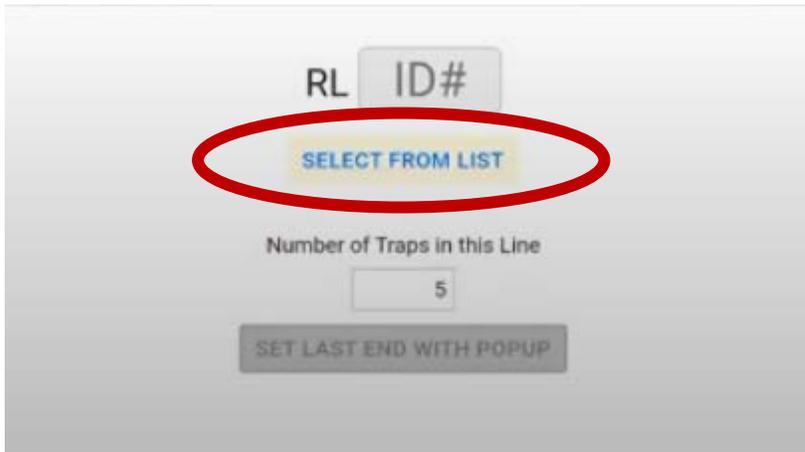
SSS/Guardian: Setting Gear, Steps 5 of 8

5) When the on-demand unit goes overboard hit "Set" again



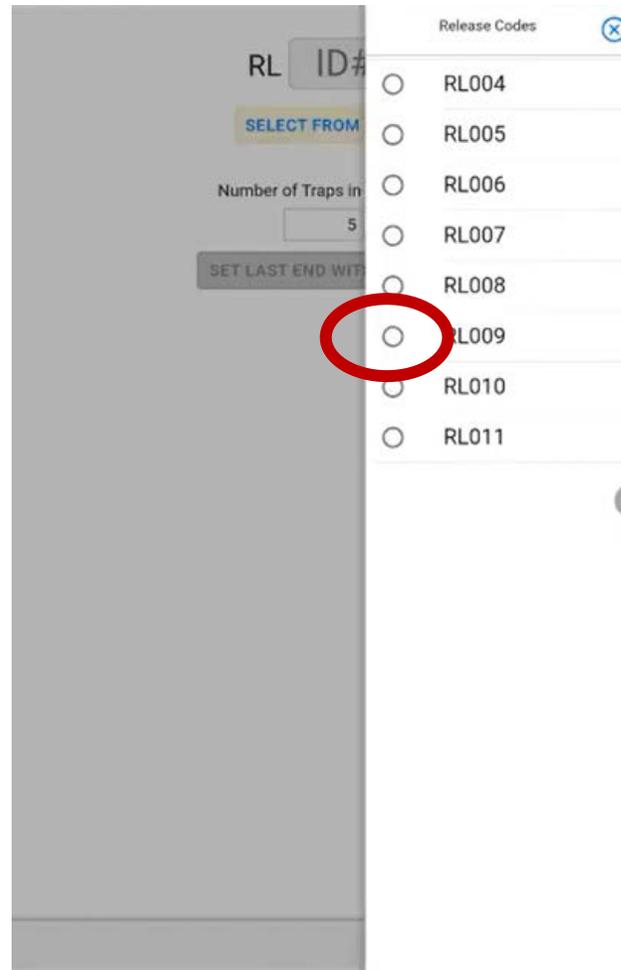
SSS/Guardian: Setting Gear, Steps 6-8 of 8

6) Hit “Select From List” to pull from a dropdown of available units to set



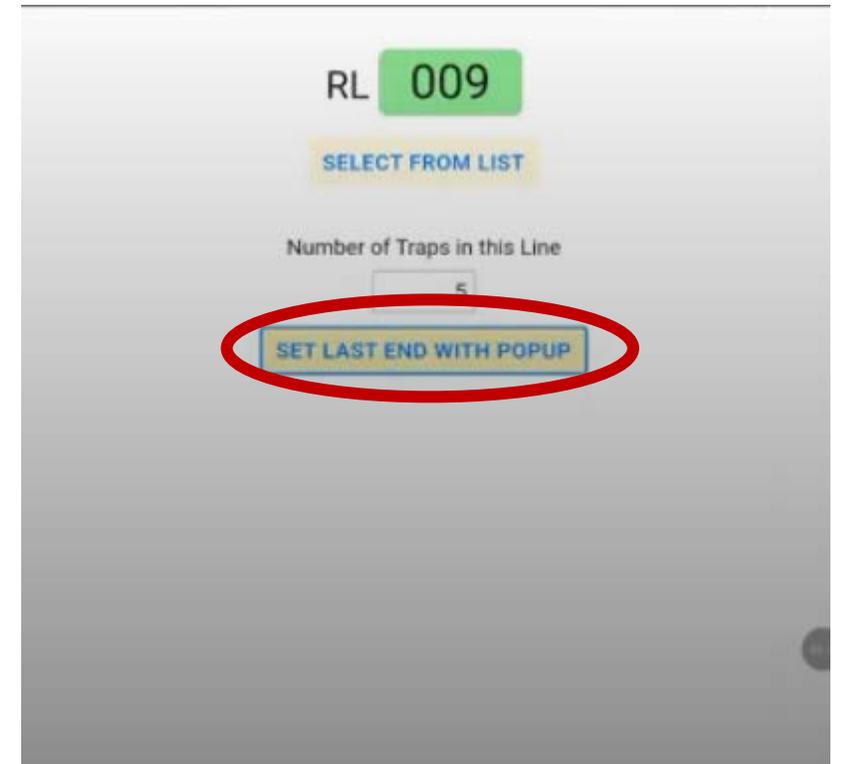
A screenshot of the SSS/Guardian interface. At the top, there is a label 'RL ID#' next to a text input field. Below this is a blue button labeled 'SELECT FROM LIST', which is circled in red. Underneath the button is a label 'Number of Traps in this Line' followed by a text input field containing the number '5'. At the bottom of the form is a grey button labeled 'SET LAST END WITH POPUP'.

7) Select the correct Unit ID from the list



A screenshot of the SSS/Guardian interface showing a list of Release Codes. The list is titled 'Release Codes' and contains the following items: RL004, RL005, RL006, RL007, RL008, RL009, RL010, and RL011. Each item has a radio button to its left. The radio button for 'RL009' is circled in red. To the left of the list, there is a label 'RL ID#' and a text input field. Below the list is a grey button labeled 'SET LAST END WITH POPUP'.

8) Hit “Set Last End With Popup”



A screenshot of the SSS/Guardian interface. At the top, there is a label 'RL' followed by a green box containing the number '009'. Below this is a blue button labeled 'SELECT FROM LIST'. Underneath the button is a label 'Number of Traps in this Line' followed by a text input field containing the number '5'. At the bottom of the form is a blue button labeled 'SET LAST END WITH POPUP', which is circled in red.



SSS/Guardian: Hauling Gear, Step 1 of 7

1) Plug the transducer in to deck box.



SSS/Guardian: **Hauling Gear, Steps 2-3 of 7**

2) Power on the deckbox. It will automatically connect to the app on your mobile device via Bluetooth.

- If it does not, go to the menu in the top left and select “Test Connection To Deckbox”. Once Bluetooth connection is established you are ready to select and haul an on-demand unit.**

3) Throw the transducer over the side ensuring enough cable is let out so that the transducer is below the keel of the boat.

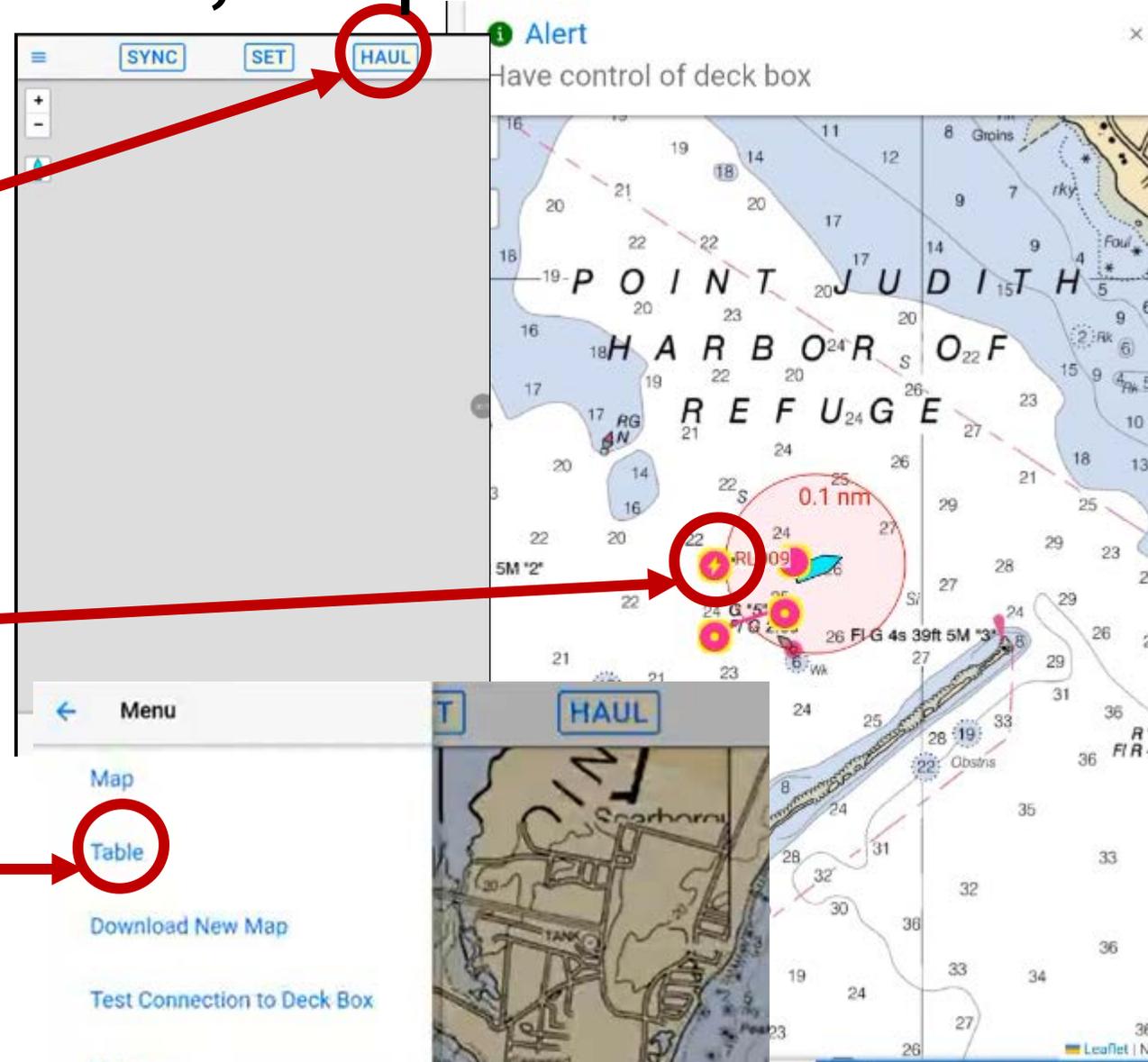
SSS/Guardian: Hauling Gear, Step 4 of 7

4) Open the Trap Timer app on your mobile device.

a) Press the “Haul” button in the top right corner of the screen. A popup will display the nearest on-demand unit based off of your GPS position. Confirm that the serial number in the dropdown is the unit you would like to haul and press “haul”. OR

b) Find the on-demand unit you would like to haul on the map and press on the icon with a lightning bolt in the center. Confirm that is the unit you would like to recover and press the “Haul” button. OR

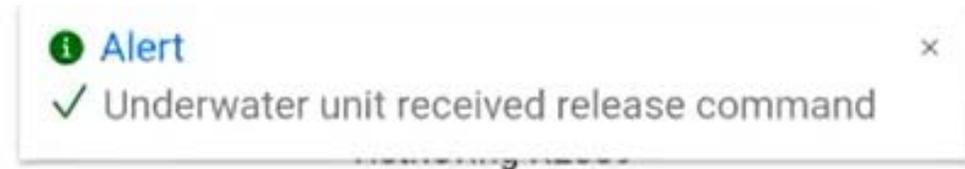
c) Go to the menu in the top left corner of the screen. Select the “Table” option. Find the on-demand unit you would like to haul and press the “Haul” button.



SSS/Guardian: Hauling Gear, Step 5 of 7

5) After pressing the “Haul” button through any of these methods, the release command will be sent via the transducer. The red button on the deckbox will flash to confirm the release command is being sent.

The acoustic release will then pick up the signal and send back a response prompting a release verification to appear on the screen letting you know the float is on its way to the surface.



SSS/Guardian: Hauling Gear, Steps 6-7 of 7

6) When you see the float, approach and haul as usual.

7) Once the on-demand unit is on board press the “Trap Hauled” button. The trawl is now removed from the map and the on-demand unit is available to be reset.

