Local 207 Members,

Many of you have had questions about the implementation of the Right Whale rules scheduled to take effect in May of 2022.

Enclosed please find images and slides provided by DMR and NOAA. Please know we are busy exploring new ways to collect vital data to our industry and vigilantly defending our heritage fishery and coastal communities.

If you have any questions about this information please reach out to:

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DMR: Lobster.DMR@maine.gov (207) 633-9412 Marine Partol: (207) 664-2392

NOAA: Marisa Trego, Take Reduction Team Coordinator: (978) 282-8484, marisa.trego@noaa.gov John Higgins, Northeast Fisheries Liaison: (207) 610-3282, john.higgins@noaa.gov Rob Martin, Northeast Gear Specialist: (617) 710-6322, robert.martin@noaa.gov WWW.FISHERIES.NOAA.GOV/ALWTRP
## Trawling-Up

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ZONE</th>
<th>EXEMPT WATERS TO 3 NM</th>
<th>3 TO 6° NM</th>
<th>6° TO 12 NM</th>
<th>BEYOND 12 NM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Zone A East</td>
<td>3 for 1 line</td>
<td>10 for 1 line 20 for 2 lines</td>
<td>10 for 1 line 20 for 2 lines</td>
<td>25 for 2 lines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zone A West</td>
<td>3 for 1 line</td>
<td>4 for 1 line 8 for 2 lines</td>
<td>8 for 1 line 15 for 2 lines</td>
<td>25 for 2 lines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zone B</td>
<td>3 for 1 line</td>
<td>5 for 1 line</td>
<td>5 for 1 line 10 for 2 lines</td>
<td>25 for 2 lines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zone C</td>
<td>2 for 1 line 4 for 2 lines</td>
<td>5 for 1 line 10 for 2 lines</td>
<td>10 for 1 line 20 for 2 lines</td>
<td>25 for 2 lines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zone D</td>
<td>2 for 1 line 4 for 2 lines</td>
<td>5 for 1 line 10 for 2 lines</td>
<td>5 for 1 line 10 for 2 lines</td>
<td>25 for 2 lines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zone E</td>
<td>2 for 1 line 4 for 2 lines</td>
<td>5 for 1 line 10 for 2 lines</td>
<td>5 for 1 line 10 for 2 lines</td>
<td>25 for 2 lines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zone F</td>
<td>3 for 1 line</td>
<td>5 for 1 line 10 for 2 lines</td>
<td>5 for 1 line 10 for 2 lines</td>
<td>25 for 2 lines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zone G</td>
<td>3 for 1 line</td>
<td>5 for 1 line 10 for 2 lines</td>
<td>10 for 1 line 20 for 2 lines</td>
<td>25 for 2 lines</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note that the 6 nm line refers to an approximation, described in 50 CFR 229.32 (a)(2)(ii).*

## Trawling-Up: Maximums

- 10 trap per trawl maximum
- 12 trap per trawl maximum
- 2 trap per trawl maximum
- 3 trap per trawl maximum
- 4 trap per trawl maximum
- 5 trap per trawl maximum
## Trawling-Up: Minimums

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Management Area</th>
<th>Minimum Number of Traps Per Trawl</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Zones A-G (Exemption Line to the 3-mile line)</td>
<td>2 (no singles allowed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maine Pocket Waters as defined in Chapter 75.01 (A)(7)*</td>
<td>2 (no singles allowed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zones A-G (3-mile line – 6-mile line)*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zones A-C (6-mile line – 12-mile line)*</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zones D-G (6-mile line – 12-mile line)*</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zones A-E (beyond 12 mile-line)</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zones F-G (beyond 12 mile-line)</td>
<td>15 (Mar 1-Oct 31)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20 (Nov 1-Feb 28/29)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Exception: Waters within ¼ mile of Monhegan Island, Matinicus Island and Ragged Island (Criehaven) are exempt from the new minimum trap per trawl requirements. Single traps are permitted within ¼ mile from these three islands.

* Most of these trawl minimums will have to be updated in state rulemaking (Chapter 75)
Next section is pertaining to GEAR MARKING and WEAK LINKS

Please note the difference between State, Sliver, and Federal Waters

DMR is still waiting on their submission for approved weak links, the only weak link allowed in federal waters must come from NOAA’s approved list.

VERY IMPORTANT: If you have tried to get compliance materials and they are unavailable or on backorder making it impossible to comply, you must contact DMR to let them know you are in the process and what the issue is.
Gear Marking – State Regs

- **Exempt Waters**
  - No changes from current regs
  - Will maintain exemption for buoy lines less than 100ft – just one 36” purple mark and one 12” purple mark

- **Sliver Area**
  - No green marks
  - Three purple marks instead of four
  - NOAA did not establish exemption for buoy lines less than 100ft

- **Federal Waters**
  - Green marks are 12” and next to each of the four purple marks

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**Gear Marking**

**State Waters**
- 36” Top Two Fathoms
- 12” Top 50% of Buoy Line
- 12” Bottom 50% of Buoy Line

**Federal Waters**
- 36” Top Two Fathoms
- 12” Top of Buoy Line
- 12” Middle of Buoy Line
- 12” Bottom of Buoy Line
Weak Points

- **State Waters**
  - 1 weak point 50% down line or top 50% of buoy line weak rope

- **3–12nm**
  - Zones A West, B, C, D, E: 2 weak points 25% and 50% down the line or top 50% of buoy line weak rope
  - Zones A East, F, G: 1 weak insert 33% down the line

- **Outside 12nm**
  - 1 weak insert 33% down the line

Weak Points: Sliver & Federal Waters

- Weak inserts must be chosen from NMFS-approved list: fisheries.noaa.gov/ALWTRP
- Waiting on verdict of weak point options ME DMR submitted

**EXAMPLES OF WEAK INSERT RIGGING METHODS**

- **OTHER INSERTIONS** (can be used with any rope)
  - South Shore Sleeve
  - This red sleeve is manufactured by Novabraid.
  - 1,700 lb breaking strength link insert/buoy breakaway

- **INSERTIONS WITH WEAK ROPE**
  - **APPROVED MANUFACTURED WEAK ROPE**
    - Rocky Mount Red (3/8" diameter) and Candy Cane (3/8" diameter)
    - Neocorp 3/8" diameter polyester rope (1021)
  - NOTE: All weak inserts must be at least 3 feet in length.
Add’l Exemption Area Options

- Entire line is 5/16”
- In-line overhand knot
- Top 1/3 of line is 5/16”
- Fisherman’s knot or sheet bend
- Bottom 1/3 of line is larger

- Full 5/16” rope
- 5/16” topper
- 5/16” insert
- 3ft section of 5/16” connected with fisherman’s knot or sheet bend
- Bottom 1/3 of line is larger

Source: www.101knots.com