

Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan Gear Marking

Why Is Gear Marking Required?

The Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan requires that surface buoys and buoy lines be marked with information that will allow us to better understand where and how whales become entangled in vertical lines associated with trap/pot and gillnet fisheries.



Surface Buoy Marking

SURFACE BUOYS ARE TO BE MARKED WITH:

Markings to help identify the associated vessel or fishery by including one of the following:

- the owner's boat registration number and/or US vessel documentation number;
- Federal commercial fishing permit number; or
- Whatever positive identification is required by the vessel's home-port state.

When marking is not already required by state or federal regulations, the letters and numbers must meet the following requirements:

- At least 1-inch (2.5cm) in height;
- Block letters or Arabic numbers; and
- In a color that contrasts with the color of the buoy.

Buoy Line Marking:

BUOY LINES ARE TO BE MARKED WITH:

THREE 12 inch (30.48 cm) colored marks:

- one at the top of the buoy line,
- one midway along the buoy line, and
- one at the bottom of the buoy line.

If the mark consists of two colors, **EACH COLOR** mark may be 6-inches for a **TOTAL MARK** of 12-inches.

Each color code must be permanently affixed on or along the line and each color code must be clearly visible when the gear is hauled or removed from the water.



TRAP/POT GEAR MARKING REQUIREMENTS

Gear Marking Color	Applicable Trap/Pot Management Area
RED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Massachusetts Restricted Area • Northern Nearshore Trap/Pot Waters • Northern Inshore State Trap/Pot Waters • Stellwagen Bank Jeffreys Ledge Restricted Area • Great South Channel Restricted Area overlapping Lobster Management Area (LMA) 2 and/or the Outer Cape (OC) LMA
RED & BLUE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exempt RI state waters
RED & WHITE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exempt MA state waters in LMA 1
RED & BLACK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exempt MA state waters in LMA 2
RED & YELLOW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exempt MA state waters Outer Cape
RED & ORANGE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isle of Shoals, Maine
RED & PURPLE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jordan Basin (Trap/Pot) overlapping LMA 1
RED & BLACK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jordan Basin (Trap/Pot) overlapping Offshore Trap/Pot Waters
ORANGE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southern Nearshore Trap/Pot Waters.
BLACK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offshore Trap/Pot Waters; Great South Channel Restricted Area overlapping with the LMA 2/3 Overlap and/or LMA 3
BLUE & ORANGE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southeast Restricted Area North (state waters)
GREEN & ORANGE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southeast Restricted Area North (Federal waters)



GILLNET GEAR MARKING REQUIREMENTS

Gear Marking Color	Applicable Gillnet Management Area
RED & GREEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jeffrey Ledge (Trap/Pot)
GREEN & BLACK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jeffrey Ledge (Gillnet)
GREEN & YELLOW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jordan Basin (Gillnet)
BLUE & ORANGE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southeast Restricted Area North (state waters)
GREEN & ORANGE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southeast Restricted Area North (Federal waters)
GREEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cape Cod Bay Restricted Area • Great South Channel Restricted Gillnet Area • Great South Channel Sliver Restricted Gillnet Area • Stellwagen Bank/Jeffreys Ledge Restricted Area • Other Northeast Gillnet Waters (Northeast & Mid-Atlantic)
BLUE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mid/South Atlantic Gillnet Waters
YELLOW	<p><u>Excluding Shark Gillnet:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southeast US Restricted Area South* • Other Southeast Gillnet Waters*
GREEN & BLUE	<p><u>Shark Gillnet (with webbing of 5” or greater)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southeast US Monitoring Area* • Southeast US Restricted Area South* • Other Southeast Gillnet Waters*

*Southeast gillnet management areas also require that each gillnet panel be marked along both the floatline and the leadline at least once every 100 yards, unless otherwise required.

