

## **Selected Maine Gear Restrictions**

### **CMR 13-188-010 Section 10.03**

It shall be unlawful to fish for or take any surf, hen clams or quahogs by any method of dredging or dragging with any combination of dredge or drag with any cutter bar that exceeds 36" in overall width except that in the area between the Spurwink River in Scarborough and Fletcher's Neck in Biddeford Pool, the cutter bar shall not exceed 24" in overall width.

### **CMR 13-188-010 Section 10.06**

It shall be unlawful to fish for or take razor clams by using electrical fields emitted by any kind of device including electrodes.

### **CMR 13-188-011 Section 11.04 Scallop Drag**

- The mesh size of net material on the top of a scallop dredge in use by or in possession of vessels in the Atlantic sea scallop fishery shall not be smaller than 5.5 inches.
- For vessels rigged with a dredge or dredges, and each individual dredge is greater than 8 ft in width, there must be at least seven rows of non-overlapping steel rings unobstructed by netting or any other material, between the terminus of the dredge (club stick) and the net material on the top of the dredge (twine top).
- For vessels rigged with a dredge or dredges, and each individual dredge is greater than 3.5 ft and less than or equal to 8 ft in width, there must be at least four rows of non-overlapping steel rings unobstructed by netting or any other material, between the club stick and the twine top of the dredge.
- For vessels rigged with a dredge or dredges, and each individual dredge is 3.5 feet or less in width, there must be at least one row of non-overlapping steel rings unobstructed by netting or any other material, between the club stick and the twine top around the circumference of the top of the dredge. The twine top must be hung on no more than two diamond meshes per ring on the top and bottom and a single diamond mesh per ring on the sides.
- No chafing gear or cookies shall be used on the top of the scallop dredge.
- No more than double links between rings shall be used in or on all parts of the dredge bag, except the dredge bottom. No more than triple linking shall be used in or on the dredge bottom portion and the diamonds. Damaged links that are connected to only one ring are allowed, unless they occur between two links that both couple the same two rings. Dredge rings may not be attached via links to more than four adjacent rings. Thus, dredge rings must be rigged in a configuration such that, when a series of adjacent rings are held horizontally, the neighboring rings form a pattern of horizontal rows and vertical columns.
- No material, device, net, dredge, ring, or link configuration or design shall be used if it results in obstructing the release of scallops that would have passed through a legal sized and configured net and dredge, as described in this part, that did not have in use any such material, device, net, dredge, ring, or link configuration or design.

-A person may not use a drag to fish for or take scallops in the territorial waters with rings that measure less than 4 inches.

#### CMR 13-188-011 Section 11.05

It shall be unlawful to possess on any vessel fishing for scallops, or to fish for or take scallops, in Maine's territorial waters, any scallop drag or combination of scallop drags that exceed 10 feet 6 inches in width (by measuring from the extreme outside of the mouth of the drag or drags).

#### CMR 13-188-012 Section 12.01

It shall be unlawful to fish for or take mussels with any one combination of mussel drags having an aggregate size in excess of 6 feet, 6 inches in width (by measuring from the extreme outside edge on one side to the extreme outside edge on the opposite side).

#### CMR 13-188-013 Section 13.01

-No more than three traps may be fished on a single line and buoy.  
- Each whelk trap must have an escape vent located in the bottom half of the trap. The vent shall measure not less than 1 1/2 inches x 1 1/2 inches square or 1 1/2 inches in diameter, if circular.

#### CMR 13-188-013 Section 13.20

-It shall be unlawful to fish for or take periwinkles by diver/diving (SCUBA or snorkel), pump, suction or any type of mechanical pumping.  
-It shall be unlawful to fish for periwinkles with any one combination of drags having an aggregate size in excess of 6' in width measuring from the extreme outside edge on one side to the extreme outside edge on the opposite side.

#### CMR 13-188-026 Section 26.05

It shall be unlawful to fish for, possess or take sea urchins with a drag, or combination of drags, in excess of 5 feet 6 inches effective fishing width (by measuring from the extreme outside of the mouth of the drag or drags).

#### CMR 13-188-027 Section 27.01

It shall be unlawful to possess on any vessel fishing for sea cucumbers, or to fish for or take sea cucumbers with, any drag having the following configurations;

- Drag width exceeding 5 feet, 6 inches, measured from the extreme outside edge to extreme outside edge
- Drag total length in excess of twenty-two feet (22'), measured from the top of the head bail to the terminal end,
- A drag head bail that is constructed of greater than one and one-half inch (1 1/2") round steel stock.

### CMR 13-188-034 Section 34.04 Groundfish Gear Restrictions

- The minimum mesh size for any otter or beam trawl net on a vessel, or used by any vessel fishing in Maine's territorial waters, shall be 6 inches diamond mesh or 6.5 inches square mesh in the body and wings, and 6.5 inches diamond mesh or square mesh in the cod end.
- Sink gillnets must have a mesh size of at least 6.5 inches and labeled with the owner's fishing license number. Gillnet fishermen may not fish more than 50 sink gillnets at one time. Sink gillnets with mesh measuring less than 6.5 inches are illegal and subject to seizure.
- The use of hooks on any commercial fishing vessel engaged in tub trawling or long lining shall be 12/0 or greater circle hooks and limited to 250 in number
- The use of de-hookers or "crucifiers" with less than 6-inch spacing between the fairlead rollers is prohibited.
- It shall be illegal to fish for Atlantic Halibut in Maine's territorial waters by any method other than using size 14/0, 15/0 or 16/0 circle hooks.
- No vessel may fish for Atlantic Halibut using more than 450 circle hooks.
- Recreational fishermen or commercial fishing license holders without the halibut endorsement may Halibut fish, for personal use, using a tub-trawl and are limited to 100 hooks in total.

### CMR 13-188-034 Section 34.08 Whiting/Silver Hake Commercial Effort Restrictions

It shall be unlawful to possess aboard a vessel any grate raised footrope trawl (GRFT) net, which has net mesh less than 6.5 inches or cod end mesh which measures less than 2.5-inches. For cod ends comprised of square mesh, measurements shall be taken from within the first 100 bars, counting from the terminus of the net, for vessels greater than 45 feet in length overall, and taken from within the first 50 bars, counting from the terminus of the net, for vessels 45 feet or less in length overall. For cod ends comprised of diamond mesh, measurements shall be taken from within the first 50 meshes, counting from the terminus of the net, for vessels greater than 45 feet in length overall and taken from within the first 25 meshes for vessels 45 feet or less in length overall.

### CMR 13-188-043 Section 43.01

- It is unlawful to use multiple (more than two) barbed or barbless treble hooks on any artificial lure or flies while fishing for bluefish.
- It is unlawful to use treble hooks when using bait.

### CMR 13-188-045 Section 45.10

-It shall be unlawful to fish for, take, transport or possess any shrimp on board any vessel rigged with a trawl net having a mesh opening of less than 1 3/4 inches between knots. It shall also be unlawful to possess a net or netting with an opening of less than 1 3/4 inches between knots on board any vessel rigged with a trawl net which is engaged in the fishing for, taking, or transport of shrimp or which carries shrimp for any purpose, except that the webbing funnel may be

constructed with a mesh size not less than 1 3/8 inches. Additionally, an exception is made for a deflector panel of 1-inch mesh in the cod end behind the second grate in a double grate system.

-Finfish Excluder Device. It shall be unlawful for any vessel rigged for otter trawling, to fish for, land or have in possession northern shrimp except by using trawls equipped with finfish excluder devices. Such finfish excluder devices (commonly referred to as the "Nordmore Grate System") shall consist of:

- The grate is a rigid or semi-rigid planar device consisting of parallel bars attached to a frame with a spacing between bars of not more than 1 inch. The parallel bars of the grate shall be oriented up and down and the grate itself shall be tilted at approximately a 45 degree angle from the vertical plane. The frame of the grate shall be secured to the extension piece of the trawl net in such a manner that prevents the passage of fish between the frame of the grate and the webbing of the extension into the cod end.

- The fish outlet may be located on the top or bottom of the extension which allows the escape of fish too large to pass between the bars of the grate. The triangular base of the fish outlet is aligned with the apex of the opening forward and is attached to the portion of the tilted grate closest to the cod end so that no lip or protruding edge of webbing is present to impede the escape of finfish. The base of the triangular opening shall not be less than 19 inches in length. The sides of the triangular outlet shall taper to a forward (toward the mouth of the trawl) apex and shall be cut "all bars" to achieve the triangular shaped opening.

- The webbing funnel shall be constructed of webbing or mesh not less than 1 3/8 inches and shall be located in the extension in front of the grate. The circumference of the extension and the outlet of the funnel shall be of sufficient diameter to allow the passage of fish captured by the trawl. The funnel shall be secured in the extension in such a manner that the funnel mouth will be directed to the part of the grate furthest from the fish outlet to maximize the separation characteristics of the grate.

-The maximum length of the bottom legs of the bridle of any shrimp trawl net shall not exceed 15 fathoms of uncovered or bare wire.

-It shall be unlawful to fish for, take, transport or possess any shrimp on board a boat rigged with a trawl net of more than one layer or with a liner of any kind attached.

-An outer mesh may be used as a cod end strengthener while fishing for Northern Shrimp. The outer mesh must be a minimum of 6.5 inches and the outer mesh must be at least three times larger than the size of the inner mesh. The mesh may be single or double twine, and diamond or square in shape. The hanging ratio must be the same as the mesh size ratio. Hanging ratio shall mean the number of meshes in the circumference of the cod end compared to the number of meshes in the circumference of the strengthener. The mesh size ratio shall mean the number of inner meshes compared to the number of outer meshes. The outer mesh may only cover the cod end. No chafing gear may be used with a cod end strengthener.

-A double Nordmore grate may be used while fishing for Northern Shrimp. A double Nordmore grate is a second grate placed behind the currently required grate. The second grate is intended to

release small shrimp from the net while retaining larger shrimp. Double Nordmore grate devices shall have the following gear components:

- A second grate that is placed 8 feet behind the first grate with a locational tolerance of plus or minus 2 feet, i.e., must be greater than 6 feet and less than 10 feet.
- A second grate that is hung at the same orientation as the first grate
- A space between the bars that is 7/16 or an inch.
- An exit hole to the cod end that is placed at the trailing end of the second grate and is not more than 10 percent of the surface area.
- A 1-inch mesh panel behind the second grate that is 45 degrees down from the top of the bars to the bottom of the cod end.
- An escape hole in the cod end in front of the 1-inch mesh panel.
- Optional: A funnel that is placed in front of the second grate designed to direct the catch toward the grate to maximize the retention of the shrimp may be used but may not have mesh less than 1-3/8 inch stretched mesh.

#### CMR 13-188-055 Section 55.04

It shall be unlawful to fish more than 2000 feet of bait gillnet in territorial waters. Bait gillnet shall have less than 3.5 inches diamond or square stretch mesh throughout the entire net. Bait gillnets must be clearly marked at each end with buoy sticks at least 4 feet in length.

#### CMR 13-188-075 Section 75.02

All persons who fish lobster gear and trap/pot fisheries (including but not limited to all crab species, hagfish, finfish, whelk, and shrimp) within Maine's coastal waters shall comply with the following federal universal requirements for the ALWTRP: 1) No floating line at the surface; and 2) No wet storage of gear over 30 days.