

Selected New Hampshire Gear Restrictions

N.H. Admin. Rules, Fis 602.01

- No person, or combination of persons, shall set or arrange a weir or net in any river or stream at any time to extend greater than from one shoreline to the thread or middle line of the stream.
- No person shall set a weir or net within 1000' of another net.

N.H. Admin. Rules, Fis 602.04

- No person on any commercial fishing vessel or party/charter vessel shall deposit upon the shores, in the bays, harbors or rivers of the state any dead fish, or parts thereof, or fish smothered or injured to such an extent that they will die.
- Nothing in this section shall be construed to restrict the use of fish, or parts thereof, for chum or bait.

N.H. Admin. Rules, Fis 602.05

- Seines used for the taking of marine species from estuarine and harbor waters of the state shall not be greater than 50 square feet. The mesh size shall be no smaller than 1/2 inch.
- Seines shall only be manually drawn, pulled, or dragged through the water.

N.H. Admin. Rules, Fis 602.06

- Gill nets used for the taking of finfish is limited to 25 gill nets in state waters and shall not be longer than 300 ft in length

N.H. Admin. Rules, Fis 602.07

- The taking, transporting or possessing of Atlantic cod, Atlantic wolffish, Atlantic halibut, ocean pout, haddock, pollock, white hake, redfish, American plaice, windowpane, witch, winter and yellowtail flounders shall be prohibited on board any boat rigged for mobile gear, including but not limited to, purse seine, Scottish seine, beam trawl, midwater trawl, otter trawl, pair trawl, or drag seine in any form

N.H Admin. Rule, Fis 602.10

- No person shall fish for or take lobsters unless the trap is equipped with unobstructed escape vents or gaps in the parlor section which shall have:
 - A rectangular or oblong escape vent not less than 1 15/16 inches by 5 3/4 inches located next to the bottom edge;
 - At least 2 circular escape vents not less than 2 7/16 inches in diameter;
 - A gap caused by raising, modifying or separating horizontal laths;
 - A gap caused by separating or modifying vertical laths;

- A gap caused by separating both ends of 2 laths 1 3/4 inches on the top of the parlor section next to the middle bow or supporting frame and directly over the parlor head; or
- In a wire or plastic trap, a gap created by cutting vents in the side or end to comply with paragraphs (1) or (2).
- No person shall set, raise, haul, or transfer any lobster trap unless the trap is equipped with an escape vent
- All traps used to fish for or take lobsters shall have at least 2 runners or sills and an escape panel designed as follows:
 - For a rectangular wire or plastic mesh trap:
 - At least 2 parallel runners or sills attached to the bottom of the trap running along the entire length of the exterior.
 - An unobstructed escape panel which shall be located in the parlor section on the sides or end; hinged at the top of positively buoyant panels or at the bottom of negatively buoyant panels; tied with an untreated natural fiber such as cotton, sisal, hemp or jute not exceeding 3/16 inches in diameter before immersion in sea water, or a piece of non-stainless, uncoated ferrous metal wire not exceeding 3/32 inches in diameter; and of sufficient size to create an opening of at least 3-3/4" x 3-3/4" when the panel is removed or opened.
 - Any non-rectangular wire or plastic mesh trap shall have at least 2 runners or sills and shall have an escape panel designed to create a space of at least 3-3/4" x 3-3/4" when open.
- Nothing shall be placed in the parlor section of any rectangular wire or plastic mesh trap, whatever the design, which would obstruct the 3-3/4" x 3-3/4" escape panel after disintegration of the natural fiber or other material.
- For a wood lath half-round or so-called "round" or wood rectangular trap:
 - Every wood lath half round or so-called "round" or wood rectangular trap shall have at least 2 parallel runners or sills on the bottom, running the entire length of the trap exterior.
 - Every wood lath half-round or so-called "round," or any other type of wooden trap or wood rectangular trap shall have an unobstructed escape panel which shall be:
 - Created by one untreated, softwood lath running the full length of the parlor section, which shall; (i) have the same dimensions as the other laths on the trap;
 - (ii) not be located where it will rest on the sea-bottom; and (iii) after disintegration, leave a space of at least 3.0 inches between adjacent laths; and
 - An opening of at least 3.0 inches between adjacent laths, running the length of the parlor section which is laced with an untreated natural fiber such as cotton, sisal, hemp, or jute not exceeding 3/16 inches in diameter before immersion in seawater; and Nothing shall be placed in the parlor section of a wood lath half-round or so-called "round" or wood

rectangular trap which might obstruct the 3 inch opening after disintegration of the untreated lath or natural fiber lacing.

-Any other type of wooden trap shall have an unobstructed escape panel laced with an untreated natural fiber such as cotton, sisal, hemp or jute not exceeding 3/16 inches diameter before immersion in seawater to provide a minimum opening of at least 3 3/4" x 3-3/4" in the parlor section when lacing disintegrates.

N.H. Admin. Rules, Fis 602.18

-Any vessel commercially rigged for hook gear shall:

- (1) Use circle hooks of size 12/0 when using bait;
- (2) Not use more than 800 circle hooks; and
- (3) Have fairlead rollers that have at least 6 inch spacing between the rollers.

N.H. Admin. Rules, Fis 603.03

-Snagging or foul-hooking of salmon shall be prohibited, and any salmon foul-hooked or snagged shall be immediately released unharmed.

N.H. Admin. Rules, Fis 603.04

-Taking of salters shall be done by angling.

N.H. Admin. Rules, Fis 603.08

- The taking of striped bass shall be prohibited by netting in any form except that striped bass may be landed by the use of a hand held dip net.
- The taking of striped bass by gaffing shall be prohibited.
- No person shall cull any striped bass

N.H Admin. Rules, Fis 603.11

-No person shall take American eels (*Anguilla rostrata*) with a pot or trap that has a mesh size less than 1/2 inches throughout the pot or trap, except from January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2016 the mesh may be smaller than 1/2 inch but only if the trap or pot has an escape panel at least 4 inch by 4 inch in size made of material with a mesh that is 1/2 inch or greater.

N.H. Admin. Rules, Fis 603.13

- No person shall take or possess blue or white marlin, sailfish and longbill spearfish except by angling.

N.H. Admin. Rules, Fis 603.15

-No person shall take or possess more than 10 bluefish in one day by hook and line while on or leaving or from the waters of the State.

N.H. Admin. Rules, Fis 603.17

-Sea urchins shall only be taken by hand or by pot from October 1 through March 15; or by hand or by pot from October 1 through March 15; or by a single sled from December 15 through March 15 as follows:

- The effective fishing width of the sled shall be 48 inches or less;
- The sled shall consist of a metal frame, 4 feet wide or less, followed by a checkerboard sweep either of twine or 1/4 inch chain;
- The sweep shall be 36 inches or less in length with a maximum of 7 inch mesh, followed by a twine bag;
- A tow bar shall be welded to the front of the frame with straps spaced to act as runners.

N.H Admin. Rules, Fis 606.01

-No person shall use any dredge in the taking of surf clams, sea clams, or hen clams, or black clams or mahogany quahogs that has a blade or knife which is greater than 48 inches in maximum width or a hydraulic dredge with a blade, knife or manifold which is greater than 48 inches in maximum width.

N.H. Admin. Rules, Fis 606.02

- Clams shall be dug only with hand held tools with handle lengths not to exceed 18 inches.

N.H. Admin. Rules, Fis 606.06

- Clam worms shall be dug only with hand held tools with handle length not to exceed 18 inches.

N.H. Admin. Rules, Fis 607.02

-Scallops shall only be taken by hand or by dredge.

-The scallop dredge shall

- Be no larger than 4 ft. wide;
 - Have a dredge ring size of 4 inches inside diameter;
 - Have a minimum mesh size of 10 inches;
 - Have no obstructions or liners attached; and
 - Have no chafing gear or cookies on the top of the dredge.
- Any chafing gear located on the bottom of the dredge shall be halfway between the sweep chain and club stick and no larger than two rows of non-overlapping steel rings. The chafing gear may follow the contour arc of the sweep chain.
- Only one dredge shall be used to take scallops.

N.H. Admin. Rules, Fis 607.04

- One pot, trap or other contrivance for taking or holding whelks shall be fished on a single line and buoy.