

RIMFC Industry Advisory Panel

July 8, 2013



RIDEM General Gillnet Regulations

- License endorsement required
- Both ends of gill net must have an orange bullet buoy (9x16 in)
- Buoys must be marked with “GN”, name and license number in 3 inch or larger lettering
- Nets must be hauled once every 24 hours
- Nets must be set in a straight line
- Nets cannot be set within 3,000 feet of a floating fish trap
- Mesh size > 5 inch stretched mesh, area/season specific rules may apply
- No possession of striped bass while gill netting



RIDEM Gillnet Area Specific Restrictions

- Narragansett bay, Mt. Hope bay, Sakonnet river
 - Nets cannot exceed 300 feet
 - Nets must be 50 yards from shore
 - Nets must be 2000 feet from another gillnet
- Waters within ½ nautical mile of coastline
 - Nets cannot exceed 600 feet
 - Nets must be set perpendicular to shore
 - Nets must be 2000 feet from another gillnet
- Waters between ½ and 3 nautical miles of coastline
 - Nets must be 2000 feet from another gillnet from April 1 to October 1
 - Nets must be marked every 600 feet with an orange buoy marked according to general requirements
 - Mesh size > 5 ½ inch stretched mesh from November 1 to March 1



RIDEM Gillnet Prohibited Fishing Areas

Year Round

- Coastal ponds, channels and rivers
- Along the shoreline within ½ mile of seaward coastal pond entrance
- Along shoreline within ½ mile and 300 yards seaward of the Harbor of Refuge

Seasonal

- Waters within 50 yards of shoreline from October 15 to December 31
- Waters within ½ mile of Block Island shoreline from April 15 to November 15
- Block Island waters near Old Harbor from November 1 to December 31



NOAA Fisheries Gillnet Regulations

General Rules:

- Gillnets cannot be longer than 6,600 ft (federal permit holders only)
- Gillnets must be marked at each end with buoys and radar reflectors (federal permit holders only)
- Gillnets not set in a straight line must have an additional buoy at the point of deviation which is marked with 2 or more visible streamers (federal permit holders only)
- All marking buoys must identify owner of vessel or official vessel number
- Some federal fisheries management plans require additional measures
- Federal take reduction plan gillnet rules apply to all gillnets in both state and federal waters



NOAA Fisheries Gillnet Regulations

Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan Rules:

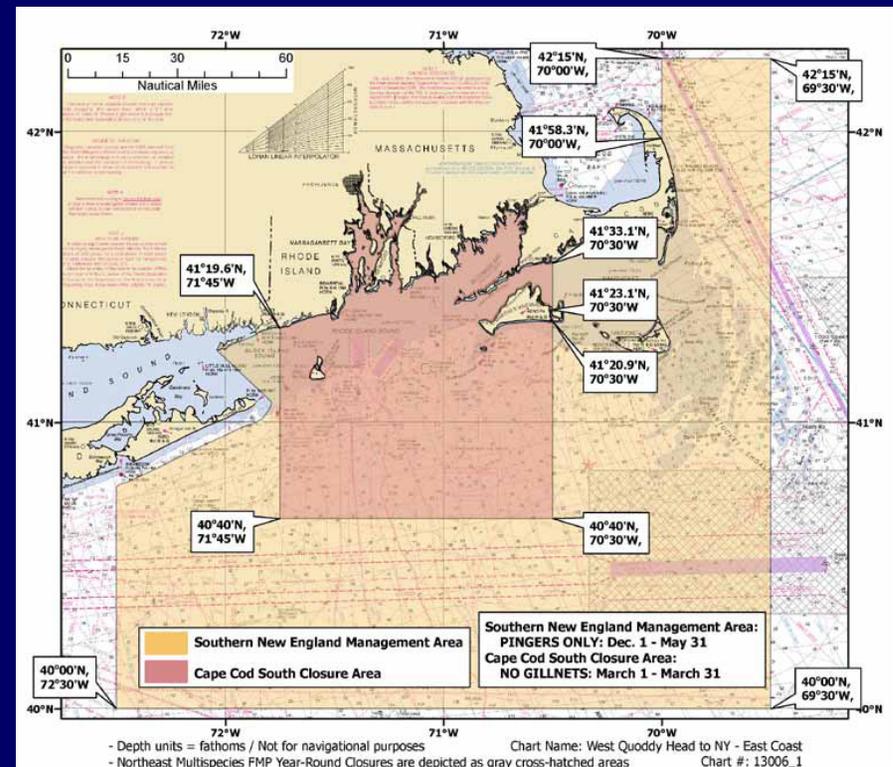
- No floating line at surface
- No wet storage (gear must be hauled every 30 days)
- Fishermen are encouraged, but not required, to maintain knot free lines
- All buoys, floatation devices and/or weights must be attached to the buoy line with a weak link with a breaking strength <1100 pounds
- Each net panel must be configured with 5 or more weak links with a breaking strength of <1100 pounds
- All gillnets must be anchored with a holding power of at least a 22 pound Danforth style anchor at each end, no dead weights
- All groundlines must be made of sinking line
- All buoy lines must be marked with a 4 inch GREEN mark midway along the buoy line



NOAA Fisheries Gillnet Regulations

Harbor Porpoise Take Reduction Plan:

- RI waters part of SNE Management Area and Cape Cod South Closure Area
 - No Gillnets in closure area from March 1 to March 31
 - Pingers required in SNE Management Area from December 1 to May 31
 - Pinger training program certification from NOAA Fisheries required
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- Consequence Closure Areas are triggered if bycatch rate exceeds 0.023 harbor porpoise / mt for two seasons in a row
 - Consequence Closure Area would be closed from February 1 to April 30 the next season if trigger reached
 - Closure lifted only if zero mortality rate goal is achieved or new measures are implemented
 - SNE Management Area bycatch rate was exceeded last season resulting in high scrutiny for the region



NOAA Fisheries Potential Future Management Measures (TBD)

Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan

- NOAA Fisheries considering rules for vertical line configurations

Harbor Porpoise Take Reduction Plan

- Zero Mortality Rate Goal (ZMRG) is the standard which is 10 % of the Potential Biological Removal (PBR) level
- Reassessing methods used to calculate bycatch rate citing high variability due to landings not being an accurate gauge of fishing effort
- Reassessing consequence closure area triggers to be enacted if PBR is exceeded as opposed to a seasonal bycatch rate
- Requiring all gillnets to have pingers from September 15 to May 31 for vessels fishing north of 40° latitude and east of 72° 30' longitude
- Step up enforcement and compliance measures for pingers
 - Mandatory dockside inspections
 - Require use of LED pingers



Differences between RIDEM and NOAA Fisheries

RIDEM

- Has more restrictive geographic restricted/prohibited areas
- Has more restrictive setting requirements
- Has more restrictive tending requirements
- Has more restrictive buoy marking rules

NOAA Fisheries

- Has more restrictive marine mammal bycatch provisions
- Has more restrictive seasonal closures, although both agencies have closures all of which must be adhered to
- Has more restrictive gear configurations
 - Net length (federal permits only)
 - Pingers
 - Weak links
 - Floating line use



Regional Roller Gear Regulations

RIDEM

- 18 inch max when fishing for Scup and Black Sea Bass
- Permanent mobile gear closures

CTDEEP

- 6 inch max all fisheries

MADMF

- 12 inch max all fisheries
- North Shore management area no rollers
- Permanent and Seasonal mobile gear closures

NYDEC

- 18 inch max when fishing for Scup, Black Sea Bass and Tautog

NOAA Fisheries

- 12 inch max in GOM/GB inshore restricted roller gear area
- 18 inch max when fishing for Scup and Black Sea Bass
- 6 inch max in monkfish southern management area
- Permanent and Seasonal mobile gear closures

