NOTICE: CHANGES FOR LOBSTER AND JONAH CRAB FISHERIES

The following changes have been made to the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan as of August 2021. The modifications highlighted here are specific to Rhode Island harvesters fishing in LCMAs 2 and 3. For the full suite of regulatory changes, please visit fisheries.noaa.gov/alwtrp or contact NOAA or RIDEM staff listed below.

CHANGES TO LOBSTER AND JONAH CRAB TRAP/POT CLOSURE AREAS
EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 18, 2021

South Island Restricted Area, closed from February through April, restricts trap/pot fishing that uses persistent (traditional) buoy lines. Fishermen must obtain authorization from the state (if in state waters) and Exempted Fishing Permits from NOAA to be exempt from other federal regulations requiring buoy lines before using ropeless gear.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Minimum Traps/Trawl</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State Waters</td>
<td>No Minimum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LMA 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LMA 2 (3-12 miles)</td>
<td>10 (status quo)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LMA 2 (12+ miles)</td>
<td>15 (status quo)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LMA 3*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N of 50 fa. line on the south end of Georges Bank</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S of 50 fa. line on the south end of Georges Bank</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georges Bank Restricted Area</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*In LMA 3, max. trawl length is increased from 1.5 to 1.75 nm

For list of all lobster/Jonah crab restricted areas, please refer to fisheries.noaa.gov/alwtrp
The 2021 rule removes the requirement for weak link at buoys and other surface system flotation devices (though they may still be used voluntarily) and adds requirements for weak rope or insertions within the buoy line.

### Area Weak Insertion Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Weak Insertion Requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MA State Waters</td>
<td>Weak inserts every 60 feet OR full weak line in the top 75% of line</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RI State Waters</td>
<td>Top 75% of one buoy line is full weak line. Bottom 25% can be higher strength.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LMA 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LMA 3</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Full weak vertical lines are currently being developed and tested for acceptance as a compliant measure for this section of the Plan.*

### EXAMPLES OF WEAK INSERT RIGGING METHODS

- **4-Tuck Splice**
  - **South Shore Sleeve**
  - **Butt Splice**
  - **3-Tuck Splice**
  - **Eye Loop Splice, 3 Tucks**
  - **NO WEAK ROPE USED**
  - **1,700lb breaking strength link insert buoy breakaway**

### CHANGES TO GEAR MARKING REQUIREMENTS

#### New Requirements for Federal Waters

**Rhode Island**
- One 3-foot **SILVER/GRAY** color mark within 2 fathoms of buoy; and
- One 12-inch **SILVER/GRAY** mark at the top of the buoy line below the surface system; and
- One 12-inch **SILVER/GRAY** mark in the middle of buoy line; and
- One 12-inch **SILVER/GRAY** mark at the bottom of the buoy line; and
- Four 12-inch **GREEN** marks, each within 6 inches of a **SILVER/GRAY** mark.

**LMA 3**
- One 3-foot long **BLACK** mark within 2 fathoms of the buoy line; and
- One 12-inch **BLACK** mark at the top of the buoy line below the surface system; and
- One 12-inch **BLACK** mark in the middle of buoy line; and
- One 12-inch **BLACK** mark at the bottom of the buoy line; and
- Four 12-inch **GREEN** marks, each within 6 inches of a **BLACK** mark.

#### New Requirements for State Waters

**Rhode Island**
- One 3-foot **SILVER/GRAY** mark within 2 fathoms of buoy; and
- One 12-inch **SILVER/GRAY** mark in top 50% of buoy line; and
- One 12-inch **SILVER/GRAY** mark in bottom 50% of buoy line.

**Contacts**

- **Greater Atlantic Fisheries Office**
  - 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

- **Rhode Island DEM Division of Marine Fisheries**
  - Scott Olzewski, Deputy Chief: (401) 423-1934, scott.olzewski@dem.ri.gov

Website: fisheries.noaa.gov/alwtrp