

NOAA
FISHERIES

Greater Atlantic Regional
Fisheries Office

Federal Surface Gear Marking Requirements and Regulatory Process

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AGENDA

- Legislative Authority for Federal Gear Marking
- Federal Gear Marking Requirements
 - Lobster Trap
 - Other Bottom Tending Fixed Gear
- Regulatory Process
 - Consideration of New Requirements
- Questions

Federal Surface Gear Marking Requirements: ***Statutory Authority***

Lobster Trap/Pot:

Atlantic Coastal Act; 50 CFR 697

Bottom Tending Fixed Gear:

Magnuson-Stevens Act; 50 CFR 648

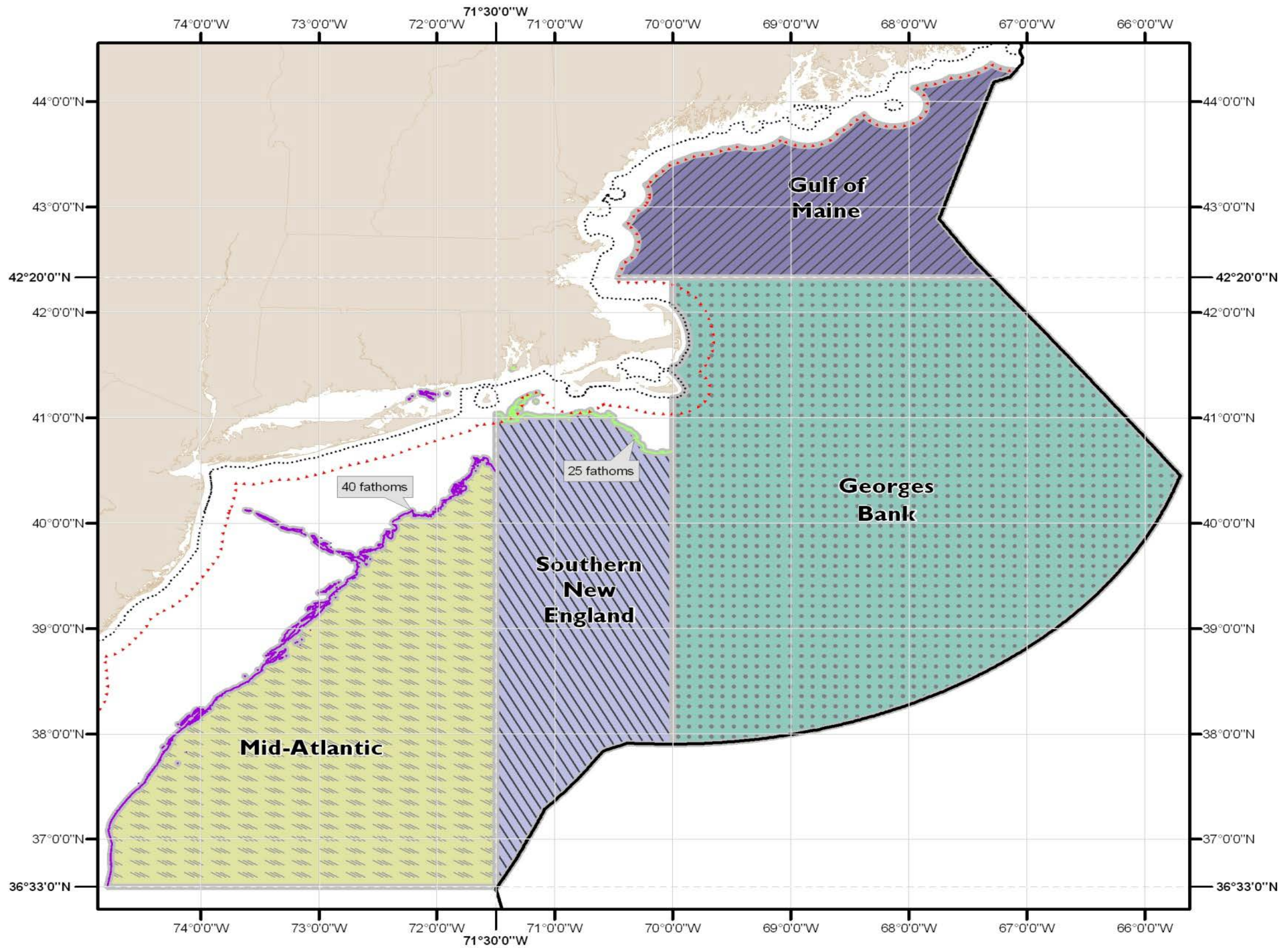
Large Whale Take Reduction Plan:

Marine Mammal Protection Act; 50 CFR 229

Federal Lobster Trap Gear Marking Areas

- Gulf of Maine
 - 12 nautical miles
- Georges Bank
 - 3 nautical miles
- Southern New England
 - 25 fathom
- Mid-Atlantic
 - 40 fathom





Federal Lobster Trap Gear Marking Requirements

Universal Trap/Pot Requirements (Same for Black Sea Bass and Scup Pots)

- Vessel 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.

Lobster Trap Trawls of Three or Fewer Traps in EEZ:

- Attached to and marked with a single buoy.

Lobster Trap Trawls of More Than Three Traps in EEZ:

- Westernmost end - radar reflector and a single flag or pennant
- Easternmost end - radar reflector only.
- Standard tetrahedral corner radar reflectors of at least 8 inches (both in height and width, and made from metal)

Federal Lobster Trap Gear Marking Requirements

Maximum Lobster Trap Trawl Length:

- **No American lobster trap trawl shall exceed 1.5 nautical miles (2.78 km) in length, as measured from radar reflector to radar reflector.**

Gear Marking Requirements of the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan

- **No floating rope at surface, weak link on buoy**
- **Other requirements for gear below the surface**

Bottom Tending Fixed Gear Marking Requirements

Gillnets and longlines (capable of, or fishing for NE multispecies or monkfish)

- **Vessel owner name or vessel number permanently affixed to any buoys, gillnets, longlines so that it is visible on the surface of the water**
- **Westernmost end**
 - **a standard 12-inch (30.5-cm) tetrahedral corner radar reflector and a pennant positioned on a staff at least 6 ft (1.8 m) above the buoy**
- **Easternmost end**
 - **only the standard 12-inch (30.5-cm) tetrahedral radar reflector**
- **Continuous gillnets must not exceed 6,600 ft (2,011.7 m) between the end buoys**
- **Gear Marking Requirements of the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan**
 - **No floating rope at surface, weak link on buoy**
 - **Other requirements for gear below the surface**

Red Crab Trap/Pot Marking Requirements

- The letters “RC” on top of each buoy
- Federal permit number on side of buoy
- Trawl number
- High fliers and radar reflectors for each trawl
- Must comply with large whale take reduction plan regulations

Rulemaking/Consideration of New Requirements

- Lobster actions generally initiate via ASMFC, other fisheries initiated via fishery management councils
- Changes to Gear Marking Requirements Most Effective if Processed via ALWTRT and Consistent with ALWTRP
- Allows for active engagement and consultation with the Councils, ASMFC, Industry, NGO's

Thank You

Questions?

