



Chain Mat Modified Dredge Gear



Sea Turtle Regulations for the Atlantic Sea Scallop Dredge Fishery

Chain Mat Requirements

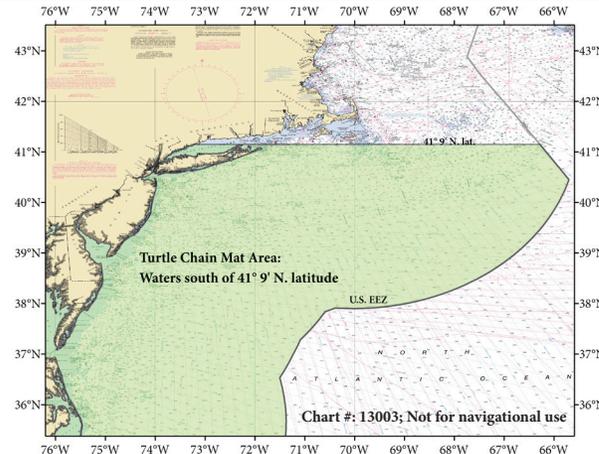
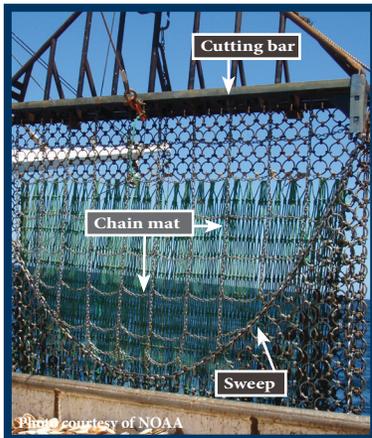
Requirement: Vessels must use chain mats on all dredges for the duration of the trip

Applies to: Vessels required to have a Federal Atlantic sea scallop permit

Where: U.S. Atlantic waters south of 41° 9' N. latitude

When: May 1 through November 30 each year

Transiting Provision: Vessels transiting these waters are exempt from the requirements provided the dredge gear is stowed, and there are no scallops on-board



This summary provides a broad overview of the requirements, and is not a substitute for the regulations. You are encouraged to read the regulations in conjunction with this information card. For more information, please see 50 CFR 223.206(d), call NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service Northeast Region Protected Resources Division at 978-281-9328, or visit our website at http://www.nero.noaa.gov/prot_res/seaturtles/regs.html.

Chain Mat Configuration

A chain mat is composed of horizontal and vertical chains configured such that:

- (1) The openings formed by the intersecting chains have no more than 4 sides
- (2) The chains cover the opening of the dredge bag with the vertical chains extending from the back of the cutting bar to the sweep
- (3) The horizontal chains intersect with the vertical chains
- (4) The length of each side of the openings formed by the intersecting chains is less than or equal to 14", with the exception of the side of any individual opening created by the sweep
- (5) The chains are connected with a shackle or link at each intersection point
- (6) Measurements are taken along the chain, with the chain held taut, and include one shackle/link at the intersection point and all links up to, but excluding the shackle/link at the other intersection point