

# Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan (ALWTRP) 2014 Northeast Trap/Pot Management Changes Summary

In 2014, the ALWTRP was modified to include the following new requirements and definitions:

## **Gear Markings**

Gear marking colors remain the same and are defined under each individual management area, however the frequency and size of the markings has changed. Now all buoy lines must be marked with three marks (at the top of the line, middle, and bottom of the line). Each mark must be 12 inches (30.48-cm) long.

## **New Trap/Pot Closure**

A new closure called the “Massachusetts Restricted Area” has been added for trap/pot gear from February 1-April 30th.

## **Minimum Number of Traps Per Trawl Requirements**

Many of the ALWTRP management areas now require a minimum number of traps per trawl based on area fished and distance from shore. For specific management area information, visit: [www.nero.noaa.gov/whaletrp](http://www.nero.noaa.gov/whaletrp)

## **Minimum Number of Traps Per Trawl Requirement Exemptions**

*New Hampshire state waters* are exempt from the new minimum trap per trawl requirements.

*Waters within 1/4 mile of Mohegan Island, Maine; Matinicus Island, Maine; and Ragged Island, Maine* are exempt from the new minimum trap per trawl requirements.

## **New Definitions**

*Maine Six Mile Line waters and Maine Pocket Waters* were defined for minimum number of trap per trawl requirements. For more information, visit: [www.nero.noaa.gov/whaletrp](http://www.nero.noaa.gov/whaletrp)

*For more information on these and other ALWTRP requirements, visit our website: [www.nero.noaa.gov/whaletrp](http://www.nero.noaa.gov/whaletrp)*

