

Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan

Supplements

A. Exempted Areas

B. Weak Links &
Anchoring Techniques

C. Gear Marking



ATTENTION

As of January 2015, NOAA is considering recommendations made by the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team.

Please check with your local NOAA Fisheries gear liaison to make sure current guide recommendations are still in effect



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

Contact Us For More Information

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Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan

Exempted Waters

Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan (Plan) regulations apply to all U.S. waters in the Atlantic, with the exceptions of the following areas described below:

Gear Modification Exemptions >280 fathoms:

- Fisheries are exempt from the requirement to have sinking groundlines if their groundline is at a depth equal to or greater than 280 fathoms (1,680 ft; 512.1m).
- Anchored gillnet fisheries are exempt from the requirement to install weak links in net panel(s) and to anchor each end of the net string if the float line is at a depth equal to or greater than 280 fathoms (1,680 ft; 512.1m).

Minimum Trap Per Trawl 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.

[For More Information Contact the](#)

[NOAA Fisheries Greater Atlantic Gear Team](#)

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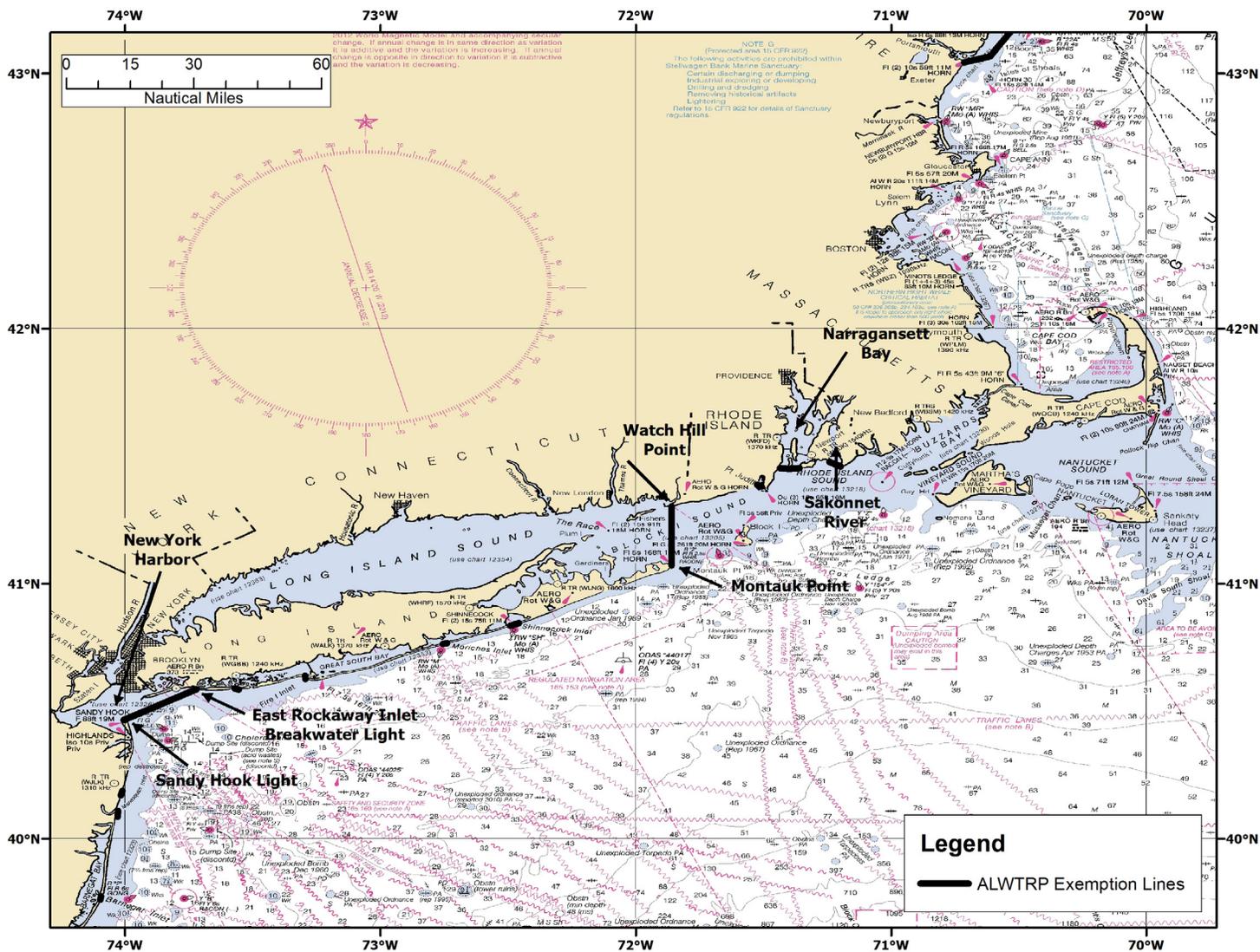
Plan Regulations Do Not Apply To The Following Exempted Waters

Exempted Area	Boundaries
COLREGS waters, Maine through Florida, with the following <u>exceptions</u> :	<p>Waters landward of the 72 COLREGS lines from Maine through Florida are exempt from Plan requirements with certain exceptions. The following COLREGS areas are NOT EXEMPT from ALWTRP regulations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Casco Bay (Maine), • Portsmouth Harbor (New Hampshire), • Gardiners Bay and Long Island Sound (New York), and • Massachusetts state waters
Exempted waters of Massachusetts include:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waters landward of the first bridge over any embayment, harbor, or inlet
Exempted waters of New Hampshire include those landward of the following line:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A line from 42°53.691' N. lat., 70°48.516' W. long. to 42°53.516' N. lat., 70°48.748' W. long. (Hampton Harbor). • A line from 42°59.986' N. lat., 70°44.654' W. long. to 42°59.956' N., 70°44.737' W. long. (Rye Harbor).
Exempted waters of Rhode Island include those landward of the following line:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A line from 41°22.441' N. lat., 71°30.781' W. long. to 41°22.447' N lat., 71°30.893' W. long. (Pt. Judith Pond Inlet). • A line from 41°21.310' N. lat., 71°38.300' W. long. to 41°21.300' N. lat., 71°38.330' W. long. (Ninigret Pond Inlet). • A line from 41°19.875' N. lat., 71°43.061' W. long. to 41°19.879' N. lat., 71°43.115' W. long. (Quonochontaug Pond Inlet). • A line from 41°19.660' N. lat., 71°45.750' W. long. to 41°19.660' N. lat., 71°45.780' W. long. (Weekapaug Pond Inlet).
Exempted waters of New York include those landward of the following line:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A line that follows the territorial sea baseline through Block Island Sound (Watch Hill Point, RI, to Montauk Point, NY).
Exempted waters of South Carolina include those landward of the following line:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A line from 32°34.717' N. lat., 80°08.565' W. long. to 32°34.686' N. lat., 80°08.642' W. long. (Captain Sams Inlet).

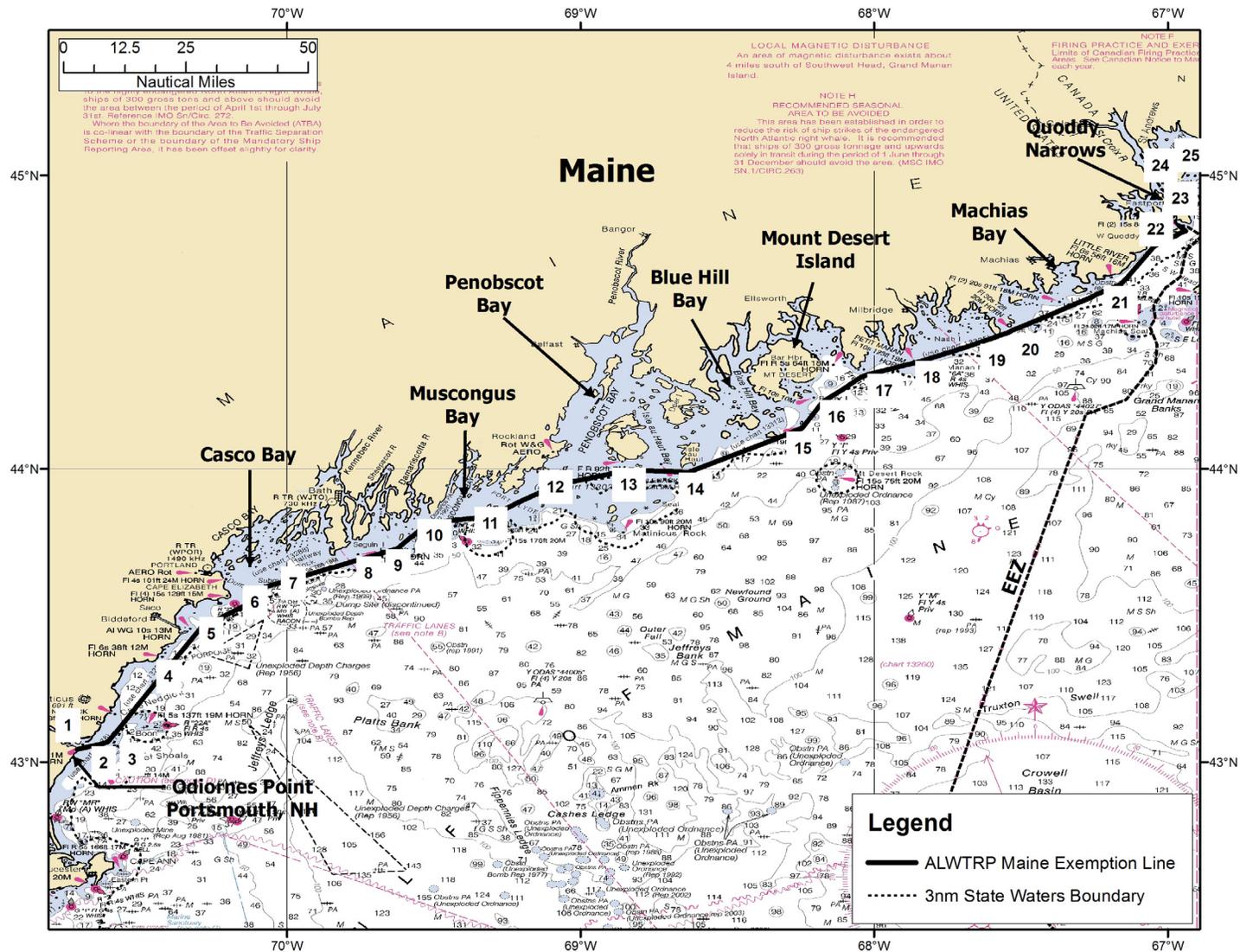
Regulations Do Not Apply To The Following Exempted Waters

Exempted Area	Boundaries	
Exempted waters of Maine include:	<p>Exempted areas are those landward of a line which connects the points below:</p>	
	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Odiornes Pt. Portsmouth NH: 43° 02.55' N 70°43.33' W 2. R 2KR Whistle – Kittery Point: 43°02.93' N 70°41.47' W 3. N 2MR – Murray Rock: 43°04.06' N, 70°36.70' W 4. RW CP Whistle – Cape Porpoise: 43°20.23' N 70°23.64' W 5. RW WI Whistle – Wood: 43°27.63' N 70°17.48' W 6. G 1 – East Hue and Cry: 43°31.94' N 70°08.68' W 7. RG N BS – Bulwark Shoal: 43°36.04' N 70°03.98' W 8. R 20ML Bell - Mile Ledge: 43°41.44' N 69°45.27' W 9. R 2BR Bell – Bantam Rock: 43°43.64' N 69°37.58' W 10. GR C PL – Pemaquid Ledge: 43°48.96' N 69°31.15' W 11. R 2 OM Whistle – Old Man Ledge: 43°50.28' N 69°18.86' 44°25.74' N 67° 38.39' W 12. G 5TB Bell – Two Bush Channel: 43°56.72' N 69°04.89' W 13. R 2A Bell – Old Horse Ledge: 43°59.83' N 68°50.06' W </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 14. R 2 Bell – Roaring Bull Ledge, Isle Au Haut: 43°59.36' N 68°37.95' W 15. Southern point Great Duck I: 44°08.36' N 68°14.75' W 16. R 8BI Whistle – Baker I: 44°13.55' N 68°10.71' W 17. R 2S Bell – Schoodic I: 44°19.08' N 68° 02.05' W 18. R N 2 – Petit Manan I: 44°21.66' N 67°51.78' W 19. R 2SR Bell – Seahorse Rock, west of Great Wass I Freeman Rock – east of Great Wass I: 44°27.77' N 67°32.86' W 20. Obstruction – southeast of Cutler: 44°37.70' N 67°09.75' W 21. R 28M Whistle – Baileys Mistake: 44°45.51' N 67°02.87' W 22. R N 2 – Morton Ledge: 44°47.36' N 66°59.25' W 23. G 1 Whistle – West Quoddy Head: 44°48.64' N 66°56.43' W 24. R N 2 – Quoddy Narrows: 44°49.67' N 66°57.77' W </td> </tr> </table>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Odiornes Pt. Portsmouth NH: 43° 02.55' N 70°43.33' W 2. R 2KR Whistle – Kittery Point: 43°02.93' N 70°41.47' W 3. N 2MR – Murray Rock: 43°04.06' N, 70°36.70' W 4. RW CP Whistle – Cape Porpoise: 43°20.23' N 70°23.64' W 5. RW WI Whistle – Wood: 43°27.63' N 70°17.48' W 6. G 1 – East Hue and Cry: 43°31.94' N 70°08.68' W 7. RG N BS – Bulwark Shoal: 43°36.04' N 70°03.98' W 8. R 20ML Bell - Mile Ledge: 43°41.44' N 69°45.27' W 9. R 2BR Bell – Bantam Rock: 43°43.64' N 69°37.58' W 10. GR C PL – Pemaquid Ledge: 43°48.96' N 69°31.15' W 11. R 2 OM Whistle – Old Man Ledge: 43°50.28' N 69°18.86' 44°25.74' N 67° 38.39' W 12. G 5TB Bell – Two Bush Channel: 43°56.72' N 69°04.89' W 13. R 2A Bell – Old Horse Ledge: 43°59.83' N 68°50.06' W
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Exempted waters of Maryland/ Virginia: Chesapeake Bay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waters landward of a line drawn from Cape Charles Light to Cape Henry Light. 	
Exempted waters of Delaware: Delaware Bay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waters landward of a line drawn from Cape May Light to Cape Henlopen. 	

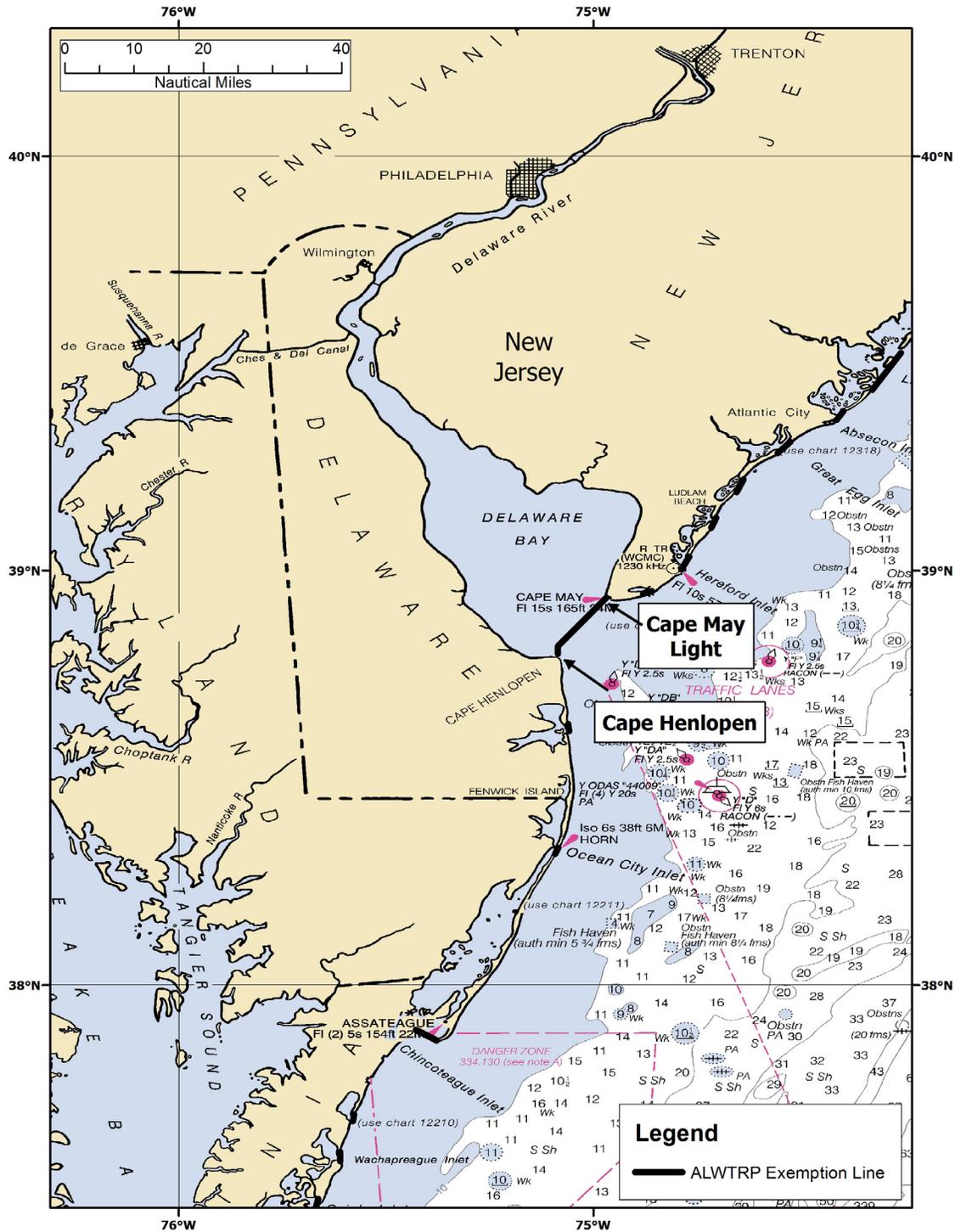
Exemption Lines for Coastal Waters of RI, CT, and NY



Exemption Lines for Coastal Waters of Maine



Exemption Lines for Delaware Bay



Weak Links & Anchoring Techniques

Why Are Weak Links Required?

Weak links are intended to allow the release of the buoy, flotation or weighted device from the line in a way that when they release, the remaining line (that was connected to these devices) will not have a knot on its end. An eye left on the line made by splicing, tucking or hog rings is acceptable. Splices are not considered to be knots.

All weak links must be placed as close as operationally feasible to each individual buoy, flotation or weighted device. Each management area has specific weak link breaking strength requirements. See regional trap/pot and gillnet guides for more information.

Weak Links For Buoy, Flotations or Weighted Devices

1) HOG RINGS



Figure 1

Hog rings can be used to form an eye in the end of a line that will function as a weak link (Figure 1). Up to 7 may be used to create a 600 pound weak link and up to 5 for a 500 pound weak link. Hog rings can be distributed (from 6” to 12”) without significantly affecting the strength.



Figure 2

A variation of this technique (Figure 2) is to connect a weak link from a short length of line. The line is formed into a loop with its ends overlapped and hog ringed to each other. Five hog rings form a suitable 600 pound link while 4 are sufficient for a 500 pound weak link. For this weak link to function properly, the loop must move freely where it attaches to both the buoy, flotation, or weighted device and the line.



Figure 3

A line may also be passed through a plastic swivel two times (Figure 3), not forming a knot, and hog ringed back on itself with up to 3 hog rings.



USING HOG RINGS TO ACHIEVE A SUITABLE WEAK LINK



Figure 4

When threading the buoy line only once through the buoy bucket/spindle, up to 7 hog rings may be used to create a weak link no greater than 600 lbs, and up to 5 hog rings used to create a weak link not exceeding 500 lbs.



Figure 5

A buoy line can be laid alongside a short lead and hog-ringed to form a weak link. 11 hog rings produced a breaking strength of 345 lbs as tested by the NOAA Fisheries Gear Team.



Figure 6

To produce a weak link from a short length of line, the line is formed into a loop with its ends overlapped and hog-ringed to each other. Five hog rings form a suitable 600 lb weak link, while four are sufficient for a 500 lb weak link. The buoy line can be passed through the loop only once, then spliced, hog-ringed or tucked back on itself to make a knotless connection.



Figure 7

A buoy bucket-type weak link can be made using no more than 7 hog rings to create a weak link less than or equal to 600 lbs, and no more than 5 hog rings to create a weak link less than or equal to 500 lb weak link. When using this hog ring buoy bucket-type weak link, the buoy line must pass through the hog-ringed eye only once and be tucked, spliced or hog ringed back to itself, making a knotless eye.

USING HOG RINGS TO ACHIEVE A SUITABLE WEAK LINK (CONTINUED)



Figure 8

When connecting to the eye of a buoy spindle, a knot may be used on one side of the eye as shown, allowing for easy buoy removal. When threading the buoy line only once through the buoy bucket/spindle or through the loop, up to 7 hog rings may be used to create a weak link no greater than 600 lbs and up to 5 hog rings used to create a weak link not exceeding 500 lbs.



Figure 9

A buoy line can also be passed through the buoy spindle/bucket/swivel two times, not forming a knot, and hog-ringed back on itself up to 3 times forming a weak link, meeting the 600 lb requirement.

2) OFF THE SHELF WEAK LINKS

Off the shelf weak links are available in a variety of styles and configurations to meet different strength requirements. The strong end of the weak link goes toward the buoy, flotation, or weighted device.



Figure 10

ATTACHING BUOY LINES TO OFF-THE-SHELF WEAK LINKS

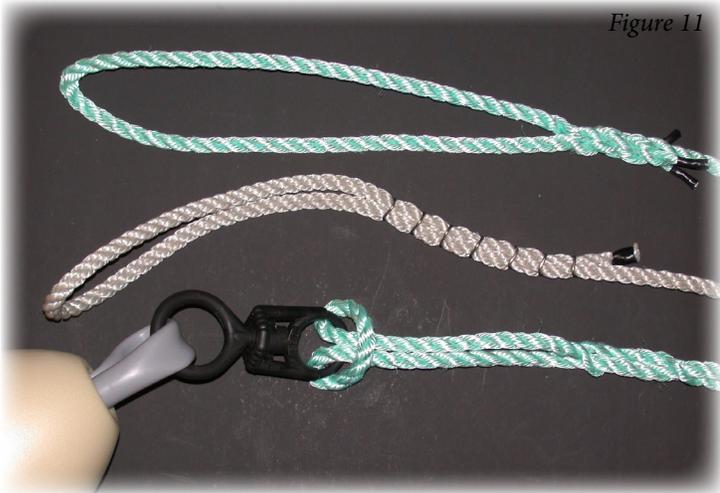


Figure 11



Figure 12

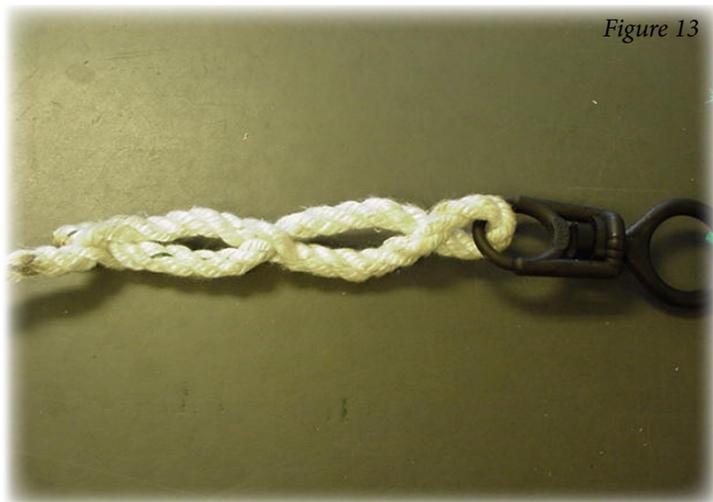


Figure 13



Figure 14

Attaching the buoy line to an off-the-shelf weak link using a spliced, tucked or hog-ringed eye will produce a knotless bitter end to the line when the weak link parts.

ATTACHING BUOY LINES TO OFF-THE-SHELF WEAK LINKS (CONTINUED)



Figure 15



Figure 16

Tying to the weak link with a clove hitch or cow hitch and then splicing or tucking the bitter end of the buoy line under a strand will also produce a knotless system when the weak link parts.



Figure 17

Tying to the weak link with a clove hitch and then tucking the bitter end of the buoy line under a strand will also produce a knotless system when the weak link parts. A loop can be fastened to the strong side of the weak link allowing a fisherman to easily remove the buoy.



Figure 18

Another off-the-shelf weak link is the slip link, which works on the same principle as a jam cleat.

3) ROPE OF APPROPRIATE BREAKING STRENGTH

Another weak link technique utilizes Rope Of Appropriate Breaking Strength. A jumper is selected based on breaking strength data from the manufacturer. A length of rope or jumper of appropriate breaking strength may be tied into the buoy, flotation, or weighted device, thus creating a weak link, as long as the failure results in a knotless bitter end on the line. Testing by the NOAA Fisheries Gear Team can make this determination.



Figure 19



Figure 20



Figure 21

4) MODIFIED SWIVELS

Some swivels can be modified to conform to the weak link requirement by compromising their strength where the line attaches. However, they must be tested by the NOAA Fisheries Gear Team to ensure that they will release in the proper fashion and within the required limits. Lukian swivels with a 9/32" diameter hole and SeaSide swivels with a 3/16" diameter hole satisfy the 600 pound requirement.



Figure 22

GILLNET FLOATLINE WEAK LINKS

Several methods of incorporating weak links into a gillnet floatline are shown below. The first two methods create a weak link by utilizing Rope of Appropriate Breaking Strength.

The first picture shows a weak link jumper spliced into the floatline. The overhand knot in the jumper reduces its strength to about 60% of its original strength. For example, putting an overhand knot in a piece of 5/16" polypropylene that has an original tensile strength of 1710 pounds will make the rope fail with a load of about 1025 pounds.

The second picture shows a weak link tied into the float rope with the fisherman's knots. These knots also reduce the strength of the rope to about 60% of its original strength.

Another alternative shows an off the shelf weak link rigged into the floatline.

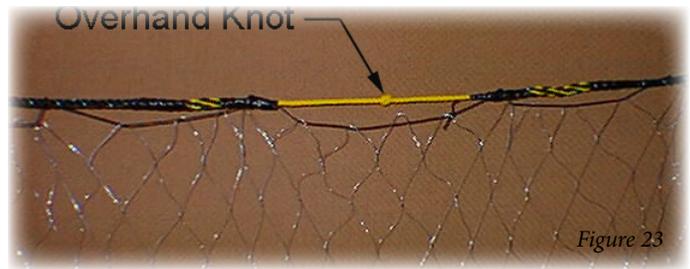


Figure 23

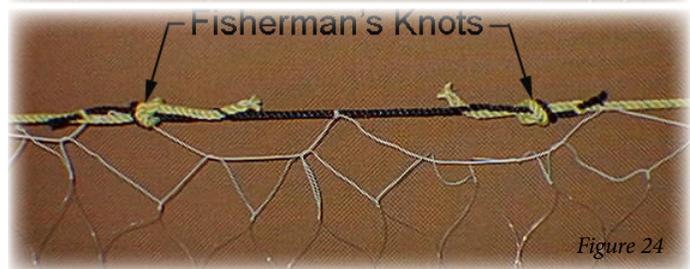


Figure 24



Figure 25

Figure 26



GILLNET ANCHORING TECHNIQUES

At the right is an example of a burying anchor (designed to hold to the ocean bottom through the use of a fluke, spade, plow or pick) that meets the requirement of the holding power of a 22-pound Danforth-style anchor. Note, dead weights do not meet the requirements for burying anchors.

For More Information Contact the NOAA Fisheries Greater Atlantic Gear Team

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Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan Gear Marking

Why Is Gear Marking Required?

The Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan requires that surface buoys and buoy lines be marked with information that will allow us to better understand where and how whales become entangled in vertical lines associated with trap/pot and gillnet fisheries.

MARKING SURFACE BUOYS



Surface buoys need to be marked to identify your vessel or fishery with one of the following:

- Your motorboat registration number and/or U.S. vessel documentation number;
- The federal commercial fishing permit number; or
- Whatever positive identification marking is required by the vessel's home-port state.

When marking is not already required by state or federal regulations, the letters and numbers to mark gear must be at least 1 inch (2.5 cm) in height, block letters or Arabic numbers, in a color that contrasts with the color of the buoy.

For More Information Contact the

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GEAR MARKING REQUIREMENTS



The 12” colored required marks can be accomplished in a variety of ways. Shown are three simple methods that were tested and found to work satisfactorily under normal conditions. At the top, colored twine is seized around the line and woven between the strands. In the center, the line was spray-painted; this method requires that the rope be dry. At the bottom, colored electrical tape was wrapped in one direction and then back over itself to form two layers.

All buoy lines must be marked with three 12 inch (30.48 cm), colored marks: one at the top of the buoy line, one midway along the buoy line, and one at the bottom of the buoy line. Each color code must be permanently affixed on or along the line and each color code must be clearly visible when the gear is hauled or removed from the water.

For specific management area color requirements, see below:

Gear Marking Color	Applicable Trap/Pot Management Area
RED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Massachusetts Restricted Area • Northern Nearshore Trap/Pot Waters • Northern Inshore State Trap/Pot Waters • Stellwagen Bank Jeffreys Ledge Restricted Area • Great South Channel Restricted Area overlapping Lobster Management Area (LMA) 2 and/or the Outer Cape (OC) LMA.
ORANGE:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southern Nearshore Trap/Pot Waters.
BLACK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offshore Trap/Pot Waters; Great South Channel Restricted Area overlapping with the LMA 2/3 Overlap and/or LMA 3
BLUE & ORANGE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southeast Restricted Area North (state waters)
GREEN & ORANGE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southeast Restricted Area North (Federal waters)



GEAR MARKING REQUIREMENTS

Gear Marking Color	Applicable Gillnet Management Area
GREEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cape Cod Bay Restricted Area • Great South Channel Restricted Gillnet Area • Great South Channel Sliver Restricted Gillnet Area • Stellwagen Bank/Jeffreys Ledge Restricted Area • Other Northeast Gillnet Waters (Northeast & Mid-Atlantic)
BLUE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mid/South Atlantic Gillnet Waters
YELLOW	<p><u>Excluding Shark Gillnet:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southeast US Restricted Area South* • Other Southeast Gillnet Waters*
GREEN & BLUE	<p><u>Shark Gillnet (with webbing of 5” or greater)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southeast US Monitoring Area* • Southeast US Restricted Area South* • Other Southeast Gillnet Waters*

*Southeast gillnet management areas also require that each gillnet panel be marked along both the floatline and the leadline at least once every 100 yards, unless otherwise required.







**NOAA
FISHERIES**

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OFFICIAL BUSINESS

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