



# Gear Stowage Information Sheet



*This summary provides a broad overview of restrictions and requirements; it is not a substitute for the regulations. You must read the regulations in conjunction with this information sheet to fully understand how this fishery is managed. The regulations summarized here may be found at 50 CFR 648.2.*

## **GEAR STOWAGE REQUIREMENTS**

Fishing gear must be stowed and not available for use when:

- Transiting a closed area;
- Transiting from port to a scallop access area, or from a scallop access area to port;
- Transiting an area with mesh size restrictions; or
- When in possession of species that require use of a larger mesh size than the stowed gear.

## **TRAWL GEAR**

### Below deck storage

- The net is stored below the main working deck from which the net is deployed and retrieved; and
- The net is fan-folded (flaked) and bound around its circumference.

### On deck storage

- The net is fan-folded (flaked) and bound around its circumference;
- The net securely fastened to the deck or rail of the vessel; and
- The towing wires, including the leg wires, are detached from the net.

### On-reel stowage for transiting seasonal closure areas:

- The net is secured and the entire surface of the net is covered with canvas or other similar opaque material or highly visible orange or yellow mesh material that is securely bound; and
- No containment rope, codend tripping device, or other mechanism to close off the codend is attached to the codend.

### On-reel stowage for transiting the permanent closure areas:

- The net is secured and the entire surface of the net is covered with canvas or other similar opaque material or highly visible orange or yellow mesh material that is securely bound; and
- The codend is removed and stored below deck.

## **SCALLOP DREDGES**

- The towing wire is detached from the scallop dredge and the towing wire is completely reeled up onto the winch, the dredge is secured, and the dredge or the winch is covered so that it is rendered unusable for fishing; or
- The towing wire is detached from the dredge and attached to a bright-colored poly ball no less than 24 inches in diameter; and
- The towing wire left in its normal operating position and is either wound back to the hanging block or suspended at the end of the lifting block where it is readily visible from above.

### HOOK GEAR

- All anchors and buoys are secured and all hook gear, including jigging machines, is covered.

### SINK GILLNET GEAR

- All nets are covered with canvas or other similar material and lashed or otherwise securely fastened to the deck or rail, and all buoys larger than 6 inches in diameter, high flyers, and anchors are disconnected.