

## Proposed Gear Marking Scheme

The following marking scheme is intended to identify vertical lines removed from whale by gear type, general fishing region, and portion of gear.

1. For all ground lines: To distinguish vertical line from groundline, require all ground lines to be one color (Purple?) and that no vertical lines be that color. Transition to this requirement over next 4-5 years. (This will provide a way to monitor the efficacy of the sinking groundline requirement. If it is not seen on whales, that would be a good indication it is working.)
2. For all vertical lines in lobster and other trap fisheries: Mark lines every 60 feet (i.e., distance of average amount of line removed from whales) with a four inch strip of color as currently required with but different colors for different regions.

<u>Region</u>	<u>Color</u>
LMA 1 – Maine Non-exempted Area*	Red
LMA 1 – Maine exempted area*	Double Red band
LMA 1 - New Hampshire & Massachusetts	Blue
Outer Cape	White
LMA 2	Iridescent lime green
LMA 3 (including LMA 2-3 Overlap) North of NY	Iridescent Orange
Mid Atlantic State Waters (NY-SC)	Black
Mid Atlantic Federal Waters (NY to SC)	Fuchsia
South Atlantic Federal and State Waters (GA-FL)	Yellow

\* If Maine would like to mark by state lobster fishery management region, require they use of a different combination of two colors for each region.

3. For all vertical lines in all gillnet fisheries: Mark lines every 60 feet (i.e., distance of average amount of line removed from whales) with two four inch strips of color with different pairs of colors for different regions. If one of those colors was always the same color (e.g. white), it would be possible to instantly determine it is a vertical line from a gillnet as opposed to a trap fishery.

<u>Region</u>	<u>Color</u>
Maine	Red/White
New Hampshire	Blue/ White
Massachusetts-East	Iridescent Orange/White
Massachusetts-South/Rhode Island/Connecticut	Iridescent Lime Green/White
Mid Atlantic State Waters (NY-SC)	Black/White
South Atlantic (GA-FL)	Yellow/White

