

Department of Marine Resources
NOTICE OF AGENCY RULE-MAKING PROPOSAL

RULE TITLE: Chapter 25.10(1)(a) Lobster Trap Limits Established by Lobster Management Zones, Zone G, Limited lobster fishing in the vicinity of Kittery – Buoy marking

CONCISE SUMMARY: The Department of Marine Resources proposes to require that buoys be marked at the ends of trawls in such a way that the buoy marking one end is distinguishable from the buoy on the opposite end of the trawl. This rule would apply only in the vicinity of Kittery and would add a distinguishable buoy marking requirement to the regulations set forth in Chapter 25.10(1)(a) that each end of a trawl be marked with a 4 foot stick.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 12 M.R.S.A. §6171-A, §6439-A

PUBLIC HEARING: **March 2, 2009, 6:00pm**, Scarborough Municipal Building, 259 US Route One, Scarborough

DEADLINE FOR COMMENTS: **March 13, 2009**

To ensure consideration, comments must include your name and the organization you represent, if any. Please be aware that any risk of non-delivery associated with submissions by fax or e-mail is on the sender.

AGENCY CONTACT PERSON: Lt. Jon Cornish (207-633-9595)
Mail Written Comments To: Department of Marine Resources, attn L. Churchill
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Hearing facilities: If you require accommodations due to disability, please contact Amanda Beckwith, at (207) 287-7578.

Additional information:

The Department proposes this measure to reduce gear conflict and subsequent economic loss due to displacement, loss and destruction of lobster gear. The increased marking requirement is intended to reduce gear conflicts that result in subsequent financial loss to fishermen. The proposed regulation would apply to Zone G lobster fishermen in the vicinity of Kittery and is anticipated to reduce gear conflict and financial loss.

Proposed rulemaking – see underlined or ~~deleted~~ text below:

Chapter 25 - Lobster and Crab Fishing
25.10 Lobster Trap Limits Established by Lobster Management Zones
1. Zone G

(a) Limited lobster fishing in the vicinity of Kittery.

Each trawl, set in the area defined in 12 M.R.S.A. §6439-A, shall be marked at each end with buoy sticks of at least 4 feet in length. At a minimum one buoy stick must have an object on the top, making it clearly distinguishable from the buoy stick located at the opposite end of the trawl.

If you are unable to attend the hearing persons are encouraged to submit written comments from the receipt or posting of this notice through close of business on the deadline listed.