



Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management Division of Marine Fisheries

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Summary of Comments

Agency: Department of Environmental Management

Division: Marine Fisheries

Regulation: **Part 6 – General Equipment Provisions (250-RICR-90-00-6)**

Type of rulemaking: Regular rulemaking

Type of filing: Amendment

Timetable for action on the proposed rule:

- Date of public notice: October 15, 2025
- Date of hearing: November 3, 2025
- End of comment period: November 16, 2025

Proposed rules and comments received:

1. **Delete Reference to RIGL in Rule Pertaining to Marking of Traps:**

➤ **PROPOSAL (Division/Noticed):** Remove the reference to RIGL in rule to clarify that the rule also applies to recreational pots.

Proposed (abridged) Rule (section 6.4(B)(2)):

B. Pots and buoys

2. Each pot used for the taking of marine species shall have attached a buoy, and each pot and buoy shall be identified with the name and license number of the owner. **(R.I. Gen. Laws § 20-4-7)**

Comments received: No comments were received.

2. **Escape Vent requirement for all Pots and Traps:**

➤ **PROPOSAL 1 (Division/Noticed):** Amend rule to require an escape vent requirement for pots and traps.

Proposed (abridged) Rule (section 6.4(B)(7)):

B. Pots and buoys:

7. Escape vents: All pots and traps must be constructed with at least one (1) rectangular escape vent with an unobstructed opening measuring not less than two inches by five and three quarters inches (2" x 5-3/4") or one (1) circular escape opening that must be a minimum of two and one half inches (2 1/2") in diameter, unless otherwise noted in regulation. Pots and traps utilized to catch certain marine species including, but not limited to, lobster, jonah crab, black sea bass, and scup have additional escape vent requirements. The following pots and traps are exempt from this requirement but may not be used to harvest lobster, jonah crab, black sea bass, and scup:

- a. Traps not exceeding twenty four inches (24") per side.
- b. Traps constructed with a mesh size not exceeding one inch (1").

Comments received: 1 comment received to add “or” between proposed sections 6.4(B)(7)(a) and (b) to add clarity that either section (a) or (b), not both, must be adhered to.

IMPORTANT! The public hearing was recorded and is publicly available on the Division of Marine Fisheries YouTube channel [here](#). *This document serves only as a tally of support, opposition, or alternative proposals received, as provided in written and oral comments received; it does not include supporting details, rationale, or discussion of matters not specific to the proposed rules.*