

Fisheries Information Notice 07 of 2012 Marking and identification of Fishing Gear



The Sea Fisheries Protection Authority has issued Fisheries Information Notice 7 of 2012 - entitled "Marking and identification of Fishing Gear".

LEGISLATION

References: EU 1224/2009 Control Regulation
 EU 404/2011 Detailed Rules for the Control Regulation
 EU 812/2004 Acoustic deterrent devices (SI 274 of 2007)
 SI 320/2012 Sea fisheries (community control system) Regulation 2012

Entry in to force

These rules enter into force on the 1 January 2012

Rules for small craft

Any craft carried onboard a community fishing vessel shall be marked with the external registration numbers of the EU fishing vessel which use the craft.

Rules for passive fishing gear and beam trawls.

Definition - "*passive gear*" means any fishing gear the catch operation of which does not require an active movement of the gear, including

- (a) gillnets, entangling nets, trammel nets, trap nets,
- (b) drifting gillnets, and drifting trammel nets, any of which may be equipped with anchoring, floating and navigational gear;
- (c) long lines, lines, pots and traps;

Rules for all EU waters:

It shall be prohibited to fish with or carry onboard beam trawls; passive gear and buoys which are not marked and identifiable.

Beam trawls – each assembled beam trawl carried onboard or used for fishing shall be clearly marked and identifiable; the marking of the external registration letters & numbers shall be on the beam of the trawl assembly.

Passive Gear – each passive gear shall permanently display the external registration letters & numbers which are displayed on the hull of the fishing vessel to which it belongs as follows:

- Nets – on a label attached to the upper first row.
- Lines and longlines – on a label at the point of contact with the mooring buoy.
- Pots and traps on a label attached to the ground rope.

Where any of these gears extend more than ONE(1) nautical mile the gear shall be permanently marked at intervals of no more than ONE(1) nautical mile.

Labels used shall be durable securely fitted and **at least** 75mm length by 65mm breadth.

Labels shall not be removable, effaced, altered, illegible, covered or concealed.

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In European waters more than TWELVE (12) Nautical Miles from the Base lines

The rules for passive gear beyond territorial waters are now applicable to all types of passive gear, including pots which were previously excluded.

Master of community vessels shall ensure that:

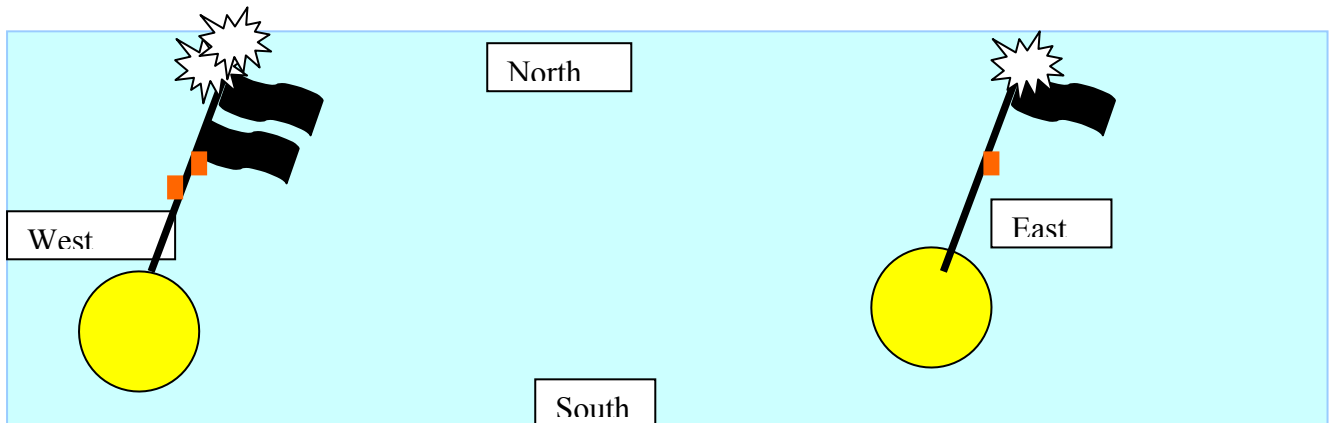
- TWO (2) marker buoys and intermediary buoys are fixed to each passive gear used for fishing.

Each marker buoy shall display the external registration letters & numbers which are displayed on the hull of the fishing vessel to which it belongs, the letters shall be displayed as high above the water so as to be clearly visible and in a colour contrasting with the surface on which they are displayed. The letters and numbers shall not be effaced, altered or allowed to become illegible.

- Cords linking the buoys shall be submersible or weighted and fixed at the end of the gear.
- Marker Buoys – shall be deployed so that the end can be determined at any time, the mast attached to the buoy shall be at least ONE (1) meter above sea level measured from the top of the float to the bottom of the lowest flag.
- Marker buoys may **NOT** be red or green to prevent confusion with navigational marks.
- The masts incorporated in the marker buoy shall be fitted with:
 - ONE (1) or TWO (2) flags and separated vertically by TWENTY(20) centimetres, flags must be the same size and may **NOT** be white.
 - One or two lights flashing yellow at intervals of FIVE (5) seconds. (FLY5s), the lights should be visible at 5 miles.

The buoy and net assembly in the eastern hemisphere from South to North through East shall be marked with One Light/Flag/Luminous Band, the Western assembly with TWO Light/Flag/ Luminous Band.

The intermediary assembly for gear extending more than FIVE (5) Nautical miles shall have the same characteristic as the Eastern Assembly with the exception that the Flag shall be white.

**Acoustic deterrent devices**

Rules for ICES Subareas VIIe,f,g,h,j & d are in place to prevent accidental catches of Cetaceans

It is prohibited for any fishing vessel over 12m in length to use any bottom set gillnet or entangling unless the nets are fitted with and using active acoustic deterrent devices. Masters shall ensure that the devices are fully operational when setting the gear.

Technical specifications and conditions of use of acoustic deterrent devices

Any acoustic deterrent devices used in application of Article 2(1) shall meet one of the following sets of signal and implementation characteristics:

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	Set 1	Set 2
	Signal characteristics	
Signal synthesis	Digital	Analogue
Tonal/wide band	Wide band/tonal	Tonal
Source levels (max - min) re1 mPa@1m	145 dB	130 -150 dB
Fundamental frequency	(a) 20 - 160 KHz wide band sweeps (b) 10 kHz tonal	10 kHz
High-frequency harmonics	Yes	Yes
Pulse duration (nominal)	300 ms	300 ms
Inter pulse interval	(a) 4 - 30 seconds randomised; (b) 4 seconds	4 seconds
	Implementation characteristics	
Maximum spacing between two acoustic deterrent devices along nets	200 m, with one acoustic device fixed at each end of the net (or combination of nets attached together)	100 m, with one acoustic device fixed at each end of the net (or combination of nets attached together)

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