



Notice to Fish Harvesters

August 14, 2020

UPDATE TO THE CONDITIONS OF LICENCES RELATED TO THE MANDATORY COLOUR SCHEME FOR GEAR MARKING IN EASTERN CANADA

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) – The Department wishes to inform the fishing industry that the conditions of licences have been updated to include a new option when using a rope with integrated coloured yarns.

The new conditions of licences related to the use of rope with integrated coloured yarns for gear marking states the following: *The integrated coloured yarns must be throughout the full length of the rope OR when using segments of rope with integrated coloured yarns, the segments must not be less than 2 meters in length and must be in the same locations as the sequences.*

The attached version 5.0 of the document titled “*Gear Marking Eastern Canada - for non-tended fixed gear fisheries, crab trap fisheries and lobster trap fisheries – Mandatory Colour Scheme*” is enclosed for reference.

For additional information

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GEAR MARKING EASTERN CANADA
for non-tended fixed gear fisheries, crab trap fisheries and lobster trap fisheries
MANDATORY COLOUR SCHEME

In February 2019, Fisheries and Oceans Canada announced that gear marking was mandatory in 2020 in all non-tended fixed-gear fisheries, as well as crab trap and lobster trap fisheries.

Mandatory gear marking consists of specific colours that must be used to correctly identify fishing ropes in different fisheries, regions and sub-regions in Canada. It allows to support Canada's efforts to address lost gear and marine mammal entanglements, and to distinguish between US and Canadian gear involved in marine mammal entanglements.

Gear marking requirements are mandatory for all ropes used to attach fishing gear to a buoy or any other floating apparatus used in the fishery (vertical line).

Approved gear marking methods are :

- interlacing coloured twine sections within existing rope (see picture in Annex 1)
- integrated coloured yarns throughout the full length of the rope (see picture in Annex 2)

Each method and mandatory colour scheme that applies are detailed below.

METHODS AUTHORIZED

Interlacing coloured twine sections within existing rope

The gear marking requirement consisting of interlacing different coloured twine sections within existing rope must be implemented as follows:

- a) the first colour is to identify specific Region – to be interlaced on the same segment of rope as the second colour.
- b) the second colour is to identify target Species – to be interlaced on the same segment of rope as the first colour.
- c) for lobster and snow crab fisheries only, a third colour to mark different fishing areas must be interlaced. The third colour must be interlaced immediately before or after the segment of rope containing the first two colours. The third colour must not be interlaced within the same segment containing the first and second colour.

The above coloured twine markings together (a, b, c) represent a sequence. Coloured twine markings must be permanently interlaced within the rope. Each coloured twine must be a minimum of 15 cm in length **when** interlaced. At a minimum, sequences are required at :

- the top, middle and bottom of the vertical line or,
 - in a few specific fisheries, within every 27.4 metres throughout the length of the rope.
- Top, middle and bottom specification:

When inserting coloured twine markings at the top, middle and bottom, the rope used to attach a buoy to the fishing gear must have a minimum of three sequences dispersed on the rope in the following manner:

- Sequence #1 (i.e. top marking)
 - o within two metres of the buoy
- Sequence #2 (i.e. middle marking)
 - o When using rope shorter than 30 metres:

- the marking must be further than three metres from the buoy and further than three meters from the fishing gear
 - When using rope with a length of 30 metres or more:
 - the marking must be further than 12 metres from the buoy and further than 12 metres from the fishing gear
- Sequence #3 (i.e. bottom marking)
 - within two metres of the fishing gear
- 27.4 meters specification:

When inserting coloured twine markings within every 27.4 meters of existing rope, the rope used to attach a buoy to the fishing gear must have a minimum of three sequences of markings dispersed on the rope.

Rope with integrated coloured yarns throughout its full length

For the purpose of this option:

- yarn is defined as the product of two or more fibers spun together;
- strand is defined as the product of two or more yarns spun together;
- strands twisted or plaited together form a rope.

(Rope components are presented in Annex 3)

UPDATED- Use of a rope with integrated coloured yarns throughout its full length is permitted *or the use of segments of rope with integrated coloured yarns is permitted under the conditions that the segments are not less than 2 meters in length and follows the requirements specified within the conditions of licences related to the sequences (i.e. if the segment covers one of the top, middle or bottom sequences, twine markings are not required on that sequence)*, however it has to comply with the following specific requirements:

- the integrated coloured yarns representing the regional and species colours has to be interlaced within the same strand of a rope in order to reflect the corresponding colour combination;
- when a fishing area colour applies, the integrated coloured yarn representing the fishing area has to be interlaced within a different strand than the regional and species strand;
- the colour of the rope has to contrast with the integrated coloured yarns;
- no additional colours are permitted in the rope.

If a fishery does not currently have fishing area specific markings, before using this option fish harvesters should be mindful that fishing area specific markings may be introduced to fisheries other than snow crab and lobster in the future. This will affect the integrated coloured yarns configuration required in the rope for fisheries that do not currently have fishing area specific markings only.

EASTERN CANADA MANDATORY COLOUR SCHEME - Region and Specie colours

	GLF - blue		MAR - black		NL - red		QC - green		Multi-region fishery ¹	
Toad crab	X	purple ⁴			X	purple	X	purple ⁴		
Rock crab	X	blue*	X	blue	X	blue	X	blue		
Lobster	X	yellow	X	yellow	X	yellow	X	yellow		
Whelk	X	white	X	white	X	white	X	white		
Snow crab	X	orange	X	orange	X	orange	X	orange	X	orange
Gillnet - small pelagic	X	grey	X	grey	X	grey	X	grey		
Gillnet – groundfish	X	brown	X	brown	X	brown	X	brown		
Longline	X	pink	X	pink	X	pink	X	pink		
Squid - trap					X	green				
Cod - trap/pot					X	red*				
Small pelagic - trap					X	yellow / black pattern ²				
Shrimp trap			X	green						
Hagfish			X	black*						
Red crab			X	red						
Jonah crab			X	purple						
LFA 41			X	Red/white pattern ²						
Scientific licences ³	X	black / white pattern ²	X	black / white pattern ²	X	black / white pattern ²	X	black / white pattern ²		

*Blue & blue, black & black and/or red & red combination means there should be two distinct strands of the same colour interlaced within the same rope section (one single strand is not acceptable)

¹ “Multi-region fishery” is specific to instances of inter-regionally managed fisheries, where each Region is wholly responsible for managing their own fleet but they share the exact same fishing area, licence conditions, and so on, as another fleet in another Region. Each Region issues the same licence conditions to their harvesters. A common base colour was given to ensure a regional division was not created within a shared industry.

² Pattern strand is necessary as no other solid colours are available. The selected fisheries must use a twine that contains a two colour pattern on one of the single strands (white/black pattern, red/white pattern, etc). This is to be used in addition to the Regional colour. See Annex 4 for a pamphlet showing examples of twine colours such as a red/white pattern strand colour (named “Oh Canada” in pamphlet).

³ “Scientific licence” colour scheme implementation is subject to regional analysis to determine when it applies.

⁴ Exceptions exist in toad crab for Gulf and Quebec Regions. Refer to the next pages to view exceptions.

EASTERN CANADA MANDATORY COLOUR SCHEME – Fishing area colours (third colour)

For lobster, snow crab, and others as applicable

The colour scheme of each lobster and snow crab fishing area in Eastern Canada, as well as a few noted exceptions, is detailed per region in the next few pages.

The double stacked cells represent the regional colour (top) and species colour (bottom), with the single cell immediately to their right representing the fishing area colour.

Additional notes:

- Areas showing “none” in the single cell means that a third colour is not applied.
- Some licence holders hold licences to fish for the same species in multiple fishing areas within the same Region. Unless otherwise specified, the category “*Multiple areas*” includes these fish harvesters only. This was done so markings do not have to be interchanged between fishing areas.

GULF REGION

Lobster fishing area colours

23		24		25		26A		26B		Multiple areas	
blue	red	blue	green	blue	none	blue	white	blue	black	blue	yellow
yellow		yellow		yellow		yellow		yellow		yellow	

Snow Crab fishing area colours

12		12E		12F		19		Multiple areas	
yellow	none	yellow	yellow	yellow	blue	blue	green	blue	yellow
orange		orange		orange	blue	orange		orange	

Toad crab fishing area colour

24	
blue	white
orange	

MARITIMES REGION

Lobster fishing area colours

27		28		29		30		31A		31B		32	
black	blue	black	grey	black	brown	black	yellow/black pattern	black	pink	black	purple	black	white
yellow		yellow		yellow		yellow		yellow		yellow		yellow	

33		34		35		36		38	
Black	orange	black	none	black	green	black	red	black	black
Yellow		yellow		yellow		yellow		yellow	

41		multiple areas	
black	none	black	yellow
red/white pattern		yellow	

Snow crab fishing area colours

North-ENS		23		24		4x		Multiple areas	
black	none	black	green	black	black	black	blue	black	yellow
orange		orange		orange		orange		orange	

NEWFOUNLAND & LABRADOR REGION

Lobster fishing area colours

3		4		5		6		7		8		9	
red	red/white pattern	red	black/white pattern	red	yellow/black pattern	red	orange	red	green	red	black	red	brown
yellow		yellow		yellow		yellow		yellow		yellow		yellow	

10		11		12		13A		13B	
red	grey	red	none	red	red	red	blue	red	yellow
yellow		yellow		yellow		yellow		yellow	

14A		14B		14C	
red	white	red	purple	red	pink
yellow		yellow		yellow	

Snow crab management area colours

2J North		2J South		3A		3B, 3C, 3BC		3D		4		5A	
red	blue	red	blue	red	black/white pattern	red	yellow/black pattern	red	black/blue pattern	red	yellow/green pattern	red	red/white pattern
orange		orange		orange		orange		orange		orange		orange	

6A		6B		6C, 8A		9A		3LNO < 65'		3NO > 65'		11E	
red	pink/blue pattern	red	red/green pattern	red	orange	red	black	red	purple	red	grey	red	pink
orange		orange		orange		orange		orange		orange		orange	

11W		10A Inner		10A Outer, 10B, 11S		Outside 8 mile		Area 12 inshore		13	
red	red	red	brown	red	white	red	yellow	red	green	red	none
orange		orange		orange		orange		orange		orange	

QUEBEC REGION

Lobster fishing area colours

15		16		17		18		19		20A		20B	
green	red	green	green	green	black	green	blue	green	brown	green	white	green	grey
yellow		yellow		yellow		yellow		yellow		yellow		yellow	

21		22		Multiple areas	
green	orange	green	none	green	yellow
yellow		yellow		yellow	

Snow crab fishing area colours

12		12A		12B		12C		12E		12F		13	
yellow	none	green	green	green	blue	green	pink	yellow	yellow	yellow	blue	green	none
orange		orange		orange		orange		orange		orange		orange	

14		15		16		16A		17		Multiple areas	
green	white	green	orange	green	red	green	none	green	black	green	yellow
orange		orange		orange		orange		orange		orange	

Toad crab fishing area colour

12	
yellow	purple
orange	

ANNEX 1

Interlacing coloured twine within existing rope

Figure A - Colour combo identifying Region and Species
as per colour scheme this is Quebec (green), snow crab (orange) interlaced on same rope section



Figure B - Colour combo identifying Region, Species and Fishing Area
Region & species interlaced on same section of rope, Fishing area on subsequent section of rope
as per colour scheme this would be Quebec (green), snow crab (orange), CFA 12A (green)



ANNEX 2
New rope with Integrated coloured yarns

Colour combo identifying Region, Species and Fishing Area throughout full length of rope:

- Region & species coloured yarns interlaced on same strand
- Fishing area coloured yarn interlaced on a subsequent strand

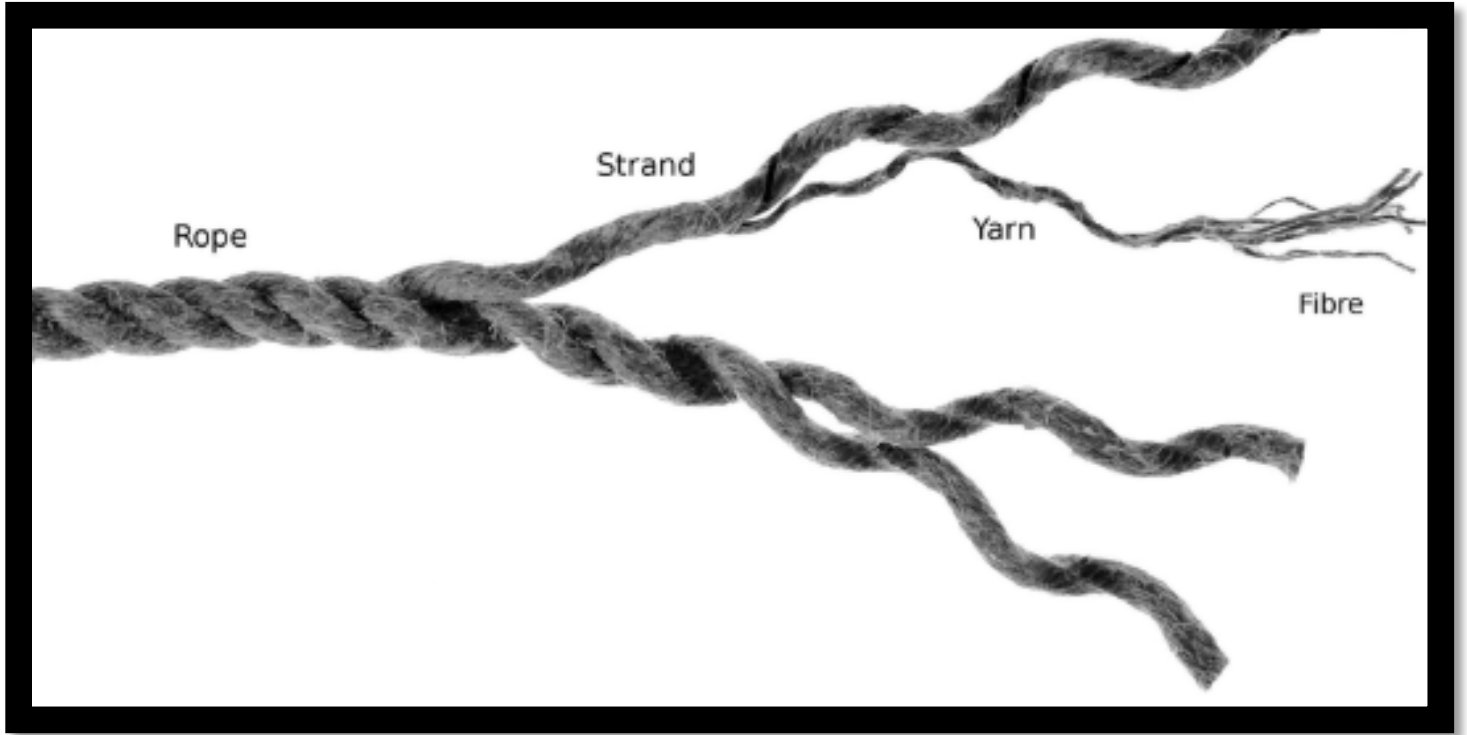
as per colour scheme this would be Maritimes' region lobster (black & yellow), LFA 35 (green)



Close up:



ANNEX 3
Rope components



ANNEX 4 Colour Chart

Canadian company pamphlet showing twine colours and patterns:

