

Finfish Trotlines (Commercial Use)

Fisheries Recommendations Prior to Meeting

- Length – 1,200 foot maximum per trotline
- Number of trotlines – no limit
- No limit on number of hooks – let users self-regulate, allow the total length limit to limit the number
- Depth – must be set in water no less than 6 feet deep at mean low tide, must be set at least 6 feet below water surface
- Minimum hook size: 5/0
- Type of hook – Striped Bass Program would like to require non-offset circle hooks to minimize striped bass mortality, Coastal Program would like to require corrodible hooks to match current shark rules
- Floats – make the rules the same as crab trotline floats
- Soak time – 12 hours?
- Bait limits – no eels or live bait
- Closed season/area: March 1 – June 15 in all striped bass spawning rivers

Workgroup Recommendations

- Agreed with length, number of trotlines, number of hooks, depth, minimum hook size, and floats
- Type of hooks – agreed with the circle hook requirement, but did not think corrodible hooks were necessary
- Did not want a soak time for this gear – typical use is to fish once per day, sometimes longer, sometimes shorter depending on weather and other conditions
- Bait limitations – agreed on no live bait, but wants to be able to use chunks of eel
- Closed season/area – wanted to be able to use the gear in these areas at these times because it overlaps with when commercial harvesters would most likely use the gear to target invasive catfish. Compromise suggested was to require bait to be set on the river bottom during this time period to minimize interactions with striped bass but still be able to target catfish

Fisheries Recommendations to Scope with SFAC and TFAC

- Scope original length, number of trotlines, number of hooks, depth, minimum hook size, and float suggestions
- Type of hooks – require circle hooks, do not require corrodible hooks; concern is enforceability of coated vs. non-coated hooks
- No soak time – what could potentially work for the industry would not be enforceable for NRP and what is enforceable for NRP would discourage the use of the gear to target invasive catfish
- Bait limitations – prohibit only live bait; chunks of eel would therefore be allowed
- Closed season/area – scope compromise suggested by workgroup with regards to tributaries; also prohibit gear in mainstem of Bay below Bay Bridge, including Pocomoke and Tangier Sounds (protected shark issue)

Bowfishing (Commercial Use)

Fisheries Recommendations Prior to Meeting

- Mirror current recreational rules
- Include reference to new snakehead permit, limit permit holders to only harvesting snakeheads

Workgroup Recommendations

- No changes recommended – mirror current recreational rules

Fisheries Recommendations to Scope with SFAC and TFAC

- Same as recommendations prior to meeting

Gigging (Recreational Use)

Fisheries Recommendations Prior to Meeting

- No species limitations other than those already in place for projectile gears
- Do not require retrieval line to be attached (this is a requirement for other projectile gears, but is not a concern for gigs due to the nature of their use)
- Safety zone – no specific recommendation but wanted to discuss whether there was a need or not

Workgroup Recommendations

- Agreed with no additional species limitations and no retrieval line requirement
- Did not think safety zone was necessary for gigs because they are held in hand

Fisheries Recommendations to Scope with SFAC and TFAC

- No additional species restrictions or retrieval line requirement
- Do not require safety zone

Slat Baskets, Bush Bobs, Bank Poles, and Dip Nets (Recreational Use in Nontidal)

Fisheries Position Prior to Meeting

- Should the rules for these gears stay the same (i.e. move old text into regulation), or should the use of these gears be expanded, restricted, or prohibited altogether?
- Had not heard from Inland managers on use of these gears at time of meeting

Workgroup Recommendations

- Maintain prohibition on slat baskets/eel pots
- Prohibit use of bush bobs and bank poles due to current bait/species restrictions making the use of the gear difficult and no desire to increase the use of the gear
- Prohibit dip nets in Susquehanna as traditional shad/herring fishery is closed (possibly allow dip nets again if the fishery is re-opened, can withstand dip net harvest, and there is interest from users)

SFAC/TFAC Gear Workgroup Meeting 7/8/2016

- Allow dip nets in Allegany and Washington counties and in the Potomac and Monocacy rivers in Carroll and Frederick Counties to allow traditional harvest of suckers to continue

Inland Fisheries Recommendations (came after workgroup meeting)

- Maintain prohibition on slat baskets/eel pots
- Prohibit use of bush bobs and bank poles for the reasons discussed by SFAC/TFAC Gear Workgroup, and for public safety concerns
- Prohibit dip nets in Susquehanna River since traditional use is no longer permitted
- Allow dip nets in the Potomac and Monocacy rivers and Conococheague Creek in Allegany, Carroll, Frederick, and Washington counties, but only allow carp, suckers, catfish, and Northern snakehead to be harvested with a dip net

Fisheries Recommendations to Scope with SFAC and TFAC

- Maintain prohibition on slat baskets/eel pots
- Prohibit the use of bush bobs and bank poles
- Allow the use of dip nets only in Potomac and Monocacy rivers and Conococheague Creek in Allegany, Carroll, Frederick, and Washington counties, but only to catch carp, suckers, catfish, and Northern snakehead