

State Regulation of Bottom Trawls



1. Alabama

- a. Bottom trawling conducted for crustaceans (primarily shrimp)
- b. No restrictions on rollers or rockhoppers
- c. Shrimp trawling prohibited seasonally and year-round in some inshore bays and sounds (e.g., Mobile Bay, Mississippi Sound, Perdido Bay)

2. Alaska

- a. Bottom trawling prohibited for groundfish, except for a few small areas in which flatfish may be caught (ALASKA ADMIN. CODE tit. 5, § 39 (2004))
- b. Bottom trawling conducted for shrimp and pollock
- c. No restrictions on rollers or rockhoppers
- d. Roughly 90% of state waters are closed to all bottom trawling to protect king crab, habitat, and Steller sea lion rookeries
- e. Seasonal prohibitions on trawling to protect salmon

3. California

- a. Bottom trawling prohibited for spot prawn (CAL. CODE REGS. tit. 14, § 120 (2004))
- b. Bottom trawling conducted for California halibut, prawn and shrimp species, and sea cucumbers
- c. Rollers and rockhoppers restricted to 8" diameter ("small footrope") shoreward of the Trawl Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) (CAL. FISH and GAME CODE §§ 8495-8497, 8830-8843 (2004))
- d. Bycatch reduction devices (BRDs) required for trawls targeting pink shrimp, to reduce bycatch of rockfish and other groundfish
- e. Bottom trawling prohibited when bycatch of species such as rockfish reach set levels
- f. Extensive trawl closure areas
 - i. 100% of state waters out to 2 miles
 - ii. 99% of state water out to 3 miles

4. Connecticut

- a. Bottom trawling prohibited in nearshore waters (from shore out to 0.25-1.0 miles, depending on location)
- b. Rollers or cookies restricted to 6" diameter as preemptive measure to protect hard bottom habitat and reduce gear conflicts (CONN. AGENCIES REGS. § 26-142a-6(g)(9) (2004))

5. Delaware

- a. Bottom trawling prohibited in state waters, except for scientific purposes (DEL. CODE ANN. tit. 7 (2004)) to protect summer flounder and other species

6. Florida

- a. Bottom trawling prohibited for species other than shrimp, calico scallops, and jellyfish (FLA. ADMIN. CODE ANN. ch. 68B (2004))
- b. No restrictions on rollers or rockhoppers

- c. Ban on all types of nets with over 500 square feet of mesh area (FLA. CONST. as revised in 1968, art. X, § 16(b)(2) (1994))
 - d. Trawl closure areas in sensitive habitats
- 7. Georgia**
- a. Bottom trawl footropes restricted to 220 feet in length in coastal waters, and to 20 feet in length for bait shrimp trawls inside sounds and bays
 - b. No restrictions on rollers or rockhoppers
- 8. Hawaii**
- a. No bottom trawling occurs
 - b. Bottom trawling expressly prohibited for bottomfish (HAW. ADMIN. RULES ch. 13-94 (2004))
- 9. Louisiana**
- a. Bottom trawling prohibited for finfish to protect habitat and fish populations (LA. REV. STAT. ANN. § 56:14 (2004))
 - b. No restrictions on rollers or rockhoppers
 - c. Shrimp trawl closure areas both seasonally and year-round
- 10. Maine**
- a. Bottom trawling prohibited for lobster (ME. REV. STATE. ANN. tit. 12, § 6952 (2004))
 - b. No restrictions on rollers or rockhoppers
 - c. Inshore trawl closure areas to protect juvenile fish habitat and reduce gear conflicts (CODE ME. R. § 55.01 et seq. (2004))
 - d. Otter trawl mesh size limited to 6" in accordance with federal law; acts as de facto ban on trawling, combined with low numbers of inshore groundfish (CODE ME. R. § 34.10(1)(C)(1) (2004))
 - e. Illegal to molest lobster gear with mobile fishing gear, including bottom trawls (ME. REV. STAT. ANN. tit. 12, § 6434 (2004))
- 11. Maryland**
- a. Bottom trawling prohibited within 1 mile of coastal shore, or in Chesapeake Bay or bays behind the Atlantic barrier islands (MD. REGS. CODE tit. 08.02, § 05.03 (2004))
 - b. Rollers restricted to 18" in the scup and black sea bass fisheries (MD. REGS. CODE tit. 08.02, §§ 05.21(B)(1)(b), 05.22(B)(1)(b) (2004))
 - c. No restrictions on rollers or rockhoppers in other fisheries
- 12. Massachusetts**
- a. Bottom trawling prohibited for lobster, striped bass, shad, smelt, tuna, and billfish (MASS. GEN. LAWS ch. 130, §§ 35, 37 (2004), MASS. REGS. CODE tit. 322, §§ 3.04, 4.06, 4.12, 6.04, 6.07, 6.11 (2004))
 - b. Rollers restricted to 12" in all state waters, and banned in some areas, such as North Shore areas 5 and 6 (MASS. REGS. CODE tit. 322, §§ 8.04, 8.07, 3.04(2c) (2004))
 - c. Trawl closure areas to protect spawning fish (see map; MASS. REGS. CODE tit. 322, § 3.04(2c) (2004))
 - d. Bottom trawling prohibited at night in all state waters (MASS. REGS. CODE tit. 322, § 8.03 (2004))

13. Mississippi

- a. Bottom trawling prohibited in some areas
- b. No restrictions on rollers or rockhoppers
- c. Recreational trawling prohibited within the Gulf Islands National Seashore boundaries of Petit Bois, Horn, and Ship islands (MISS. ORDINANCE 2.016 (2004))

14. New Hampshire

- a. Complete ban on trawls in state waters (N.H. REV. STAT. ANN. § 211.49 (2004))

15. New Jersey

- a. Rollers restricted to 18" (N.J. ADMIN. CODE tit. 7:25, § 18.14(e) (2004))
- b. No trawling within 2 miles of coast (limited exception for shrimp trawls) (N.J. ADMIN. CODE tit. 7:25, § 18.14(b) (2004))

16. New York

- a. Proposed legislation to prohibit rollers and rockhoppers to protect habitat passed the State Assembly but not the Senate in 2004 (Bill A07297 (2004))
- b. Rollers limited to 18" in scup, black sea bass, and tautog fisheries to protect these species and rocky habitat (N.Y. COMP. CODES R. & REGS. tit. 6, §§ 40.5(f)(6), (g)(6), (h)(6) (2004))

17. North Carolina

- a. Bottom trawls prohibited from Cape Hatteras to NC/SC border, but allowed in this area for shrimp, crab and flounder (N.C. ADMIN. CODE tit. 15, r. 3J .0202(4) (2004))
- b. Bottom trawling for marine species prohibited in primary nursery areas (in estuarine waters), and prohibited for all species in secondary nursery areas (N.C. ADMIN. CODE tit. 15, r. 3N .0104, .0105(a) (2004))
- c. Bottom trawling prohibited in nearly 50% of inshore waters
- d. No restrictions on rollers or rockhoppers

18. Oregon

- a. Bottom trawling prohibited for several species of rockfish, restricted to footropes of 8" diameter and smaller for other rockfish
- b. Bottom trawling prohibited for spot prawns, but take is allowed incidentally to trawling for pink shrimp or groundfish
- c. No trawl closure areas, although encourages upholding a "gentleman's agreement" between trawlers and the state that no trawling will occur inshore except in historic flatfish trawl grounds

19. Rhode Island

- a. Rollers restricted to 18" for scup and black sea bass fisheries; no restrictions on rollers or rockhoppers for other fisheries (R.I. GEN. LAWS § 10.12 (2004))
- b. Trawl closure areas to protect fish and reduce bycatch (R.I. GEN. LAWS § 11.2-.4 (2004))

20. South Carolina

- a. Bottom trawling only conducted for shrimp, but regulations permit its use for shrimp, crab, flounder, finfish, and whelk in certain areas and times (S.C. CODE §§ 50-5-700 et seq. (2004))

- b. Bottom trawling prohibited in many areas, including the northern Grand Strand (S.C. CODE §§ 50-5-85, 50-5-700 et seq. (2004))
- c. No restrictions on rollers or rockhoppers

21. Texas

- a. Bottom trawling prohibited for finfish
- b. Bottom trawling conducted for shrimp
- c. No restrictions on rollers or rockhoppers

22. Virginia

- a. Bottom trawling prohibited in all state waters to protect summer flounder and other spawning and migrating species (VA. CODE ANN. § 28.2-315; VA. REGS. REG. §§ 20-420-10, 20-420-20 (2004))

23. Washington

- a. Bottom trawling prohibited for:
 - i. Coastal spot prawn, to protect habitat (WASH. ADMIN. CODE § 220-88B (2004))
 - ii. Coastal bottomfish, to protect habitat (WASH. ADMIN. CODE § 220-44-030(1)(h) (2004))
 - iii. Puget Sound shrimp fishery (WASH. ADMIN. CODE § 220-52-051(3)(a) (2004))
- b. Bottom trawling restricted for Puget Sound bottomfish: (WASH. ADMIN. CODE §§ 220-48-011 (2004))
 - i. Prohibited in all areas except around Bellingham and the western Strait of Juan de Fuca
 - ii. Rollers prohibited
 - iii. Depth restrictions are also used to keep bottom trawls out of vegetated areas