



GEAR MARKING
EASTERN CANADA
for non-tended fixed gear fisheries

In February 2019 Minister Wilkinson announced that Canada would phase-in mandatory gear marking for all fixed-gear fisheries in 2020. Please find below the Eastern Canada gear marking framework.

BRIEF OVERVIEW

- The purpose of these measures are to identify gear from different fisheries, regions and sub-regions in Canada, to support efforts to address lost gear and reduce marine mammal entanglements, and to distinguish between US and Canadian gear involved in marine mammal entanglements.
- To help differentiate between Canadian and US gear marks, the Canadian scheme uses different colour combinations and methods for applying colour marks to rope. For example, the US marking scheme uses segments of different colours in a length of rope (i.e. a 6 inch segment of red followed by a six inch segment of blue), rather than interlacing strands of colour in the full length of a segment of rope. The US also uses tape and paint to add colour segments to rope, rather than integrating lines of coloured twine.

Gear Marking method to be applied in Eastern Canada

- 1) Colour combination are to be implemented using two different strands of twine interlaced on the same segment of rope (see picture Annex 1):
 - a) One colour will be used to identify fisheries from a specific Region – to be interlaced on the same segment of rope as the second colour.
 - b) A second colour will be used to identify target Species of a fishery – to be interlaced on the same segment of rope as the first colour. Each species will be attributed the same colour across all Regions in Eastern Canada (i.e. yellow for lobster).
- 2) For snow crab and lobster fisheries only, a third colour will be used to mark different fishing areas in each region. The third colour will be added to a subsequent segment of rope immediately after the segment of rope with the first two colours, and will not be interlaced with the first and second colour. For example, the Area 12A Crab fishery in the Gulf will have a segment of green and orange strands interlaced in the rope, followed by a segment of rope with only an orange strand interlaced (see Figure B in Annex 1).
- 3) Gear marking will be mandatory for ropes attaching the fishing gear to the primary buoy (vertical line). It could also be included on other rope sections when applicable, at the discretion of fish harvesters, such as the rope section attaching the primary buoy to the secondary buoy, and rope from trap to trap set on a same line (ground lines).
- 4) At a minimum, gear marking will be required at the top, middle and bottom of the vertical line (aligned with minimum requirements in the US) or every 27.4m throughout the length of the rope (aligned with existing practice in GLF and QC). Each strand marking must be a minimum of 15cm in length.
- 5) Use of a “tracer” as an alternative to colour coding requirements will be permitted. Given that a tracer can’t be added to existing rope, unlike coloured twine which can be integrated into existing rope, the use of tracers could be phased-in as ropes are replaced. The tracer, a silver transparent tape inside the full length of the rope, must have a visible inscription identifying country, region, species and fishing area. (See ANNEX 3)



MANDATORY COLOUR SCHEME (Region and Species colours)

	GLF - blue		MAR - black		NL - red		QC - green		Multi-region fishery ¹	
Toad crab	X	purple			X	purple	X	purple		
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*				
Shrimp trap			X	green						
Hagfish			X	black*						
Red crab			X	red						
Jonah crab			X	purple						
Lobs., rock crab and jonah crab ²			X	3						
Clearwater LFA 41			X	3						

*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 As some fish harvesters in Maritimes Region use the same gear to fish all three fisheries (lobster, rock crab and Jonah crab), at this time they will have a different colour than others to acknowledge, at a minimum, that it can be from either of those fisheries.

³ 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 (yellow/black pattern, red/white pattern). This is to be used in addition to the Regional colour. See Annex 2 for a pamphlet showing examples of twine colours including a yellow/black patterned strand colour and a red/white pattern strand colour (respectively named “lemon tartan” and “Oh Canada” in pamphlet).



**EASTERN CANADA COLOR SCHEME PER FISHING AREA (third color)
FOR LOBSTER & SNOW CRAB**

As some of the interregional snow crab fisheries in the Gulf of St Lawrence already have some colour marking, efforts were made to avoid completely new colour schemes.

The following is the Eastern Canada break down of the colour scheme for lobster and snow crab fishing areas, per Region:

- 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 color is not applied.
- Some harvesters fish in multiple fishing areas. Unless otherwise specified, the category “*Multiple area*” includes these fish harvesters only. This was done so twines do not have to be interchanged between fisheries.

GULF REGION

Lobster fishing area colors

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 colors

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



MARITIMES REGION

Lobster fishing area colors

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

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

41 Clearwater		multi species		multiple areas	
black	none	black	corresponding LFA color	black	yellow
red/white	none	yellow/black	corresponding LFA color	yellow	yellow

Snow crab fishing area colors

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



NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR REGION

Lobster fishing area colors

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 colors

2J North		2J South		3A		3B, 3C, 3BC		3D		4		5A	
red	navy 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		brown		white		yellow		green		none
orange		orange		orange		orange		orange		orange	



QUEBEC REGION

Lobster fishing area colors

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 colors

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	



ANNEX 1

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

Canadian company pamphlet showing twine colours and patterns:



There are companies for which the price does not differ between the different colours and patterns : 50 ft = \$6.70 / 100 ft = \$9.25 / 1000 ft = \$50.50

All colours are in stock, and it takes only one to two days to make more if needed.



ANNEX 3

Sample of rope with tracer exposed for gear analysis.

