

Regulation of Roller and Rockhopper Gear and Bottom Trawling in State Waters

1. Alabama
 - a. No restrictions on rollers or rockhoppers
 - b. Some inshore bays and sounds have shrimp and crab trawl closures (e.g., Mobile Bay and Mississippi Sound)
 2. Alaska
 - a. No restrictions on rollers or rockhoppers
 - b. Roughly 90% of state waters are closed to trawling to protect king crab and habitat (ALASKA ADMIN. CODE tit. 5, § 39.164 (2001))
 3. California
 - a. Limits rollers/rockhoppers to 8" ("small footrope") for most rockfish fisheries (allows use of larger rollers/rockhoppers but limits catch to very small numbers)
 - i. Incorporates Pacific Council Annual Groundfish Specifications and Management Measures into California Regulations (CAL. CODE REGS. Fish and Game § 8830 (2001); 66 Fed. Reg. 2354-2355 (January 11, 2001))
 - b. No restrictions on rollers or rockhoppers in the spot prawn fishery
 - c. 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. Limits rollers or cookies to 6" diameter as preemptive measure to protect hard bottom habitat and reduce gear conflicts (Conn. Agencies Regs. § 26-142a-6(g)(9) (2001))
 - b. Trawl closure areas (2001 Marine Fisheries Information Circular, p.23)
 5. Delaware
 - a. Ban on all trawling for finfish in state waters, except for scientific purposes (DEL. CODE ANN. tit. 7, §§ 907, 908, 910, 911, 927)
 - i. Protects summer flounder
 - b. No restrictions on rollers, rockhoppers or trawls for species other than finfish
 6. Florida
 - a. No restrictions on rollers or rockhoppers
 - b. 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))
 - c. Trawls only allowed in shrimp and calico scallop fisheries (FLA. ADMIN. CODE ANN. r. 68B (2001))
 - d. Trawl closure areas in sensitive habitat
 7. Georgia
 - a. No restrictions on rollers or rockhoppers
 8. Hawaii
 - a. No restrictions on rollers or rockhoppers
 - b. No trawling occurs
 9. Louisiana
 - a. No restrictions on rollers or rockhoppers
 - b. Ban on trawls for finfish to protect habitat and fish populations (LA. REV. STAT. ANN. § 56:14 (2001)), but trawls allowed for shrimping
 - c. Shrimp trawl closure areas both seasonally and permanently
 10. Maine
 - a. No restrictions on rollers or rockhoppers
 - b. Inshore trawl closure areas to protect juvenile fish habitat and to reduce gear conflicts (CODE ME. R. tit. 13-188, § 55.01 et seq. (2001))
 - c. Otter trawl mesh size limited to 6" in accordance with federal law and acts as de facto ban on trawling, combined with low numbers of inshore groundfish (CODE ME. R. tit. 13-188, § 34.10(I)(C)(I) (2001))
 - d. Illegal to interfere lobster gear with mobile fishing gear (ME. REV. STAT. ANN. tit. 12, § 6434 (1993))
 11. Maryland
 - a. Rollers restricted to 18" for scup and black sea bass fisheries (MD. REGS. CODE tit. 08.02, §§ 05.21(B)(i)(b), 05.22(B)(i)(b) (2001))
 - b. No restrictions on rollers or rockhoppers in other fisheries
 - c. Trawling prohibited within 1 mile of shore (MD. REGS. CODE tit. 08.02, § 05.03 (2001))
 12. Massachusetts
 - a. Rollers restricted to 12" and banned in some fisheries (MASS. REGS. CODE tit. 322, §§ 8.04, 8.07, 3.04(2c) (2001))
 - b. Trawl closure areas to protect spawning fish (see map; MASS. REGS. CODE tit. 322, § 3.04(2c) (2001))
 13. Mississippi
 - a. No restrictions on rollers or rockhoppers
 - b. Trawl closure areas
- The Marine Conservation Biology Institute contributed to this fact sheet.*

14. New Hampshire

- a. Complete ban on trawls in state waters (N.H. REV. STAT. ANN. § 211.49 (1993))

15. New Jersey

- a. Rollers restricted to 18" (N.J. ADMIN. CODE tit. 7:25, § 18.14(e) (2001))
- b. No trawling within 2 miles of coast (limited exception for shrimping) (N.J. ADMIN. CODE tit. 7:25, § 18.14(b) (2001))

16. New York

- a. Proposed legislation to limit rollers to 4", non-metallic material (Bill A08421 (2002))
- b. Rollers limited to 18" in all fisheries to protect scup and black sea bass populations, and rocky habitat (N.Y. COMP. CODES R. & REGS. tit. 6, §§ 40.5(e)(6), (f)(6) (2001))

17. North Carolina

- a. No restrictions on rollers or rockhoppers
- b. 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) (2001))
- c. Primary nursery areas (in estuarine waters) prohibit use of trawls for marine fishing (N.C. ADMIN. CODE tit. 15, r. 3N .0104 (2001))
- d. Secondary nursery areas (in estuarine waters) are completely closed to trawls (N.C. ADMIN. CODE tit. 15, r. 3N .0105(a) (2001))

18. Oregon

- a. Limits rollers and rockhoppers to 8" ("small footrope") for most rockfish fisheries (allows use of larger rollers or rockhoppers but limits catch to very small numbers)
 - i. Incorporates Pacific Council Annual Groundfish Specifications and Management Measures into Oregon Regulations (OR. ADMIN. R. 635.004.0018 (2001); 66 Fed. Reg. 2354-2355 (January 11, 2001))
- b. No restrictions on roller or rockhopper size in spot prawn trawl fishery
- c. No trawl closure areas (encourages upholding a "gentleman's agreement" between trawlers and the state that no trawling will occur inshore except for in historic flatfish trawl grounds)

19. Rhode Island

- a. Rollers restricted to 18" for scup and black sea bass fisheries (R.I. Marine Fisheries Statutes and Regulations § 10.12 (R.I.M.F.C. Reg.))
- b. No restrictions on rollers or rockhoppers in other fisheries
- c. Trawl closure areas to protect fish and reduce bycatch (R.I. Marine Fisheries Statutes and Regulations § 11.2-.3 (R.I.M.F.C. Reg.))

20. South Carolina

- a. No restrictions on rollers or rockhoppers
- b. Trawls allowed for shrimp, crab, flounder and whelk fishing, but only in certain areas (S.C. CODE §§ 50-5-85, 50-5-700 et seq.)

21. Texas

- a. No restrictions on rollers or rockhoppers
- b. Trawls are not an approved gear for finfish (Texas Regulations Guidebook p. 15)
- c. Trawls are used for shrimp and crab without restriction on bottom gear

22. Virginia

- a. Trawls banned, except in limited areas (VA. CODE ANN. § 28.2-315; VA. ADMIN. CODE tit. 4, §§ 20-420-10, 20-420-20 (2001))

23. Washington

- a. Coastal spot prawn fishery bans trawls in favor of pots after 2002
 - i. Until phased out, footrope in coastal spot prawn fishery must be no less than 8" nor more than 28" and must roll independently and freely (WASH. ADMIN. CODE § 220-88B-050(2)(d) (2001))
- b. Puget Sound shrimp fishery - limited to beam trawl only (no otter trawl) (WASH. ADMIN. CODE § 220-52-051(3)(a) (2001))
- c. Puget Sound bottomfish - roller trawl gear banned (WASH. ADMIN. CODE §§ 220-48-001(i), 220-48-011(3) (2001))
- d. Coastal bottomfish - otter and beam trawls prohibited in state territorial waters (WASH. ADMIN. CODE § 220-44-030(i)(h) (2001))