

# Prawn and shrimp gear

You may only harvest prawn and shrimp using:

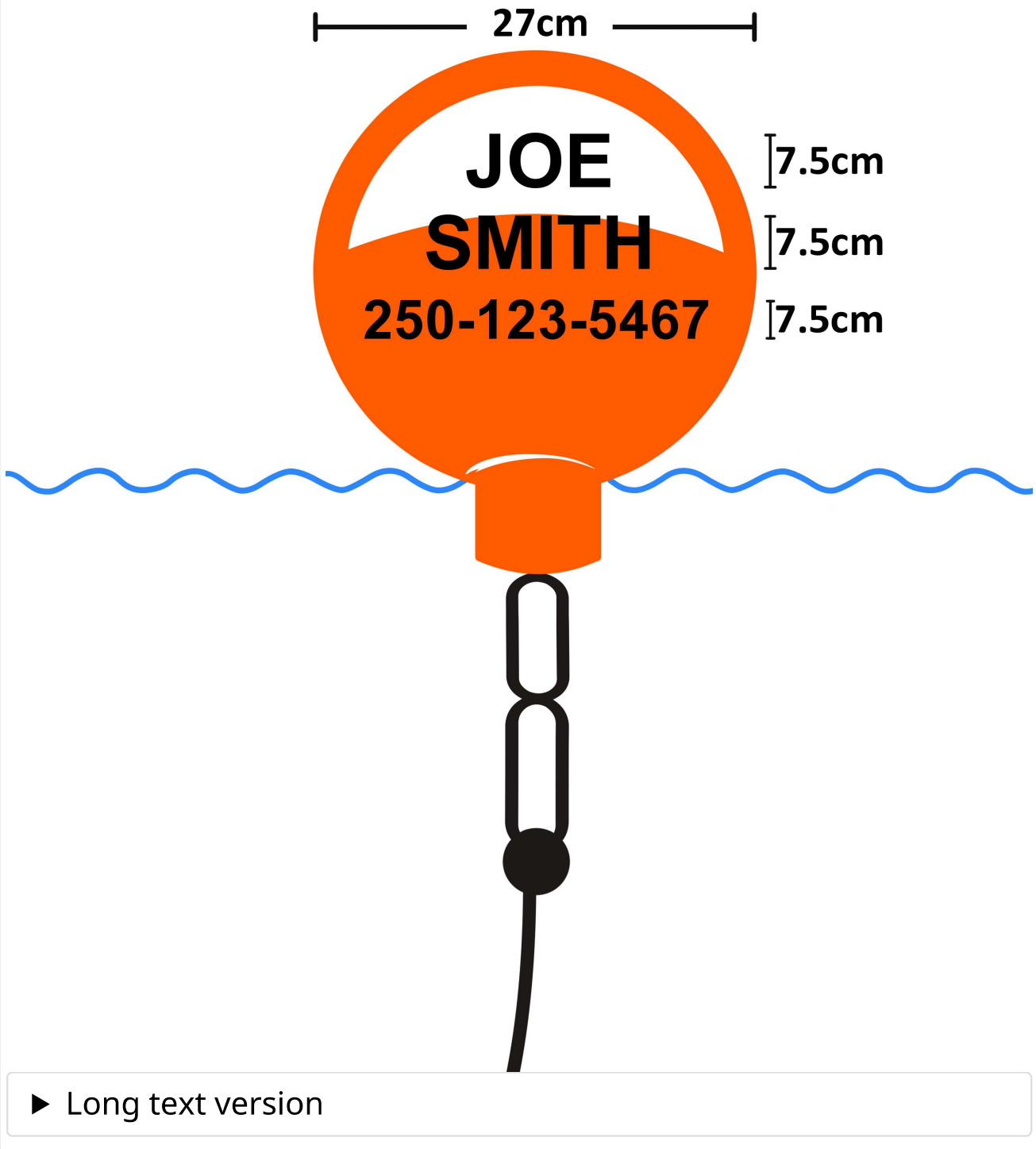
- traps
- ring nets
- spears while diving

## Traps

We encourage you to use traps that catch a good range of prawn sizes while allowing smaller prawns to escape. Traps with 2.5 cm (1 inch) between knots or a 2 cm (3/4 inch) mesh work well.

## Trap floats

### Primary float requirements



Primary trap floats must be:

- spherical
- a minimum of 27cm in diameter

Scotchman style floats often meet these requirements and can be found at most tackle retailers.

Secondary trap floats may be:

- any shape other than cylindrical
- any size

All trap floats must:

- be made of a durable material suitable for marine waters
- be marked with only your name and phone number in legible and visible letters (at least 7.5 cm high) that are consistent in orientation on the float

## Multiple traps

You may set multiple traps on a single ground line provided you mark all tags and buoys with your name and you follow these rules:

### Line and marking rules for setting multiple prawn and shrimp traps

| Number of traps | Line and marking requirements                                   | Detail   |
|-----------------|---|--|
| 1               | 1 floating tag or buoy  |  |
| 2               | 1 ground line marked with 1 floating tag or buoy                | You can use a <u>maximum of 2 traps for crab harvesting</u>      |
| 3 or more       | 1 ground line with both ends marked with a floating tag or buoy | You can use a maximum of 4 traps for shrimp and prawn harvesting |

## Trap recovery

You may use mechanical devices to recover traps.

## Rot cord

You must use rot cord on all prawn traps to allow prawns in lost traps to escape. To use rot cord:

- ensure your trap has an opening in the top or side wall that is at least 7 cm x 20 cm (if it is a rectangle) or 11 cm x 11 cm (if it is a square)
- if your trap came with treated twine, remove it. You can tell if twine is treated as it will melt rather than burn
- sew the opening shut with a single strand of untreated cotton twine no greater than #120 (5 mm or 3/16 inches in diameter)
- if your trap has a hinged lid on a rigid frame, secure the lid with only a single strand of untreated cotton twine no greater than #120. No other fastener is permitted

### ▼ Other species-specific gear

## Species-specific gear

### Clam gear

It is illegal to dredge or to use mechanical apparatuses to harvest clams.

### Octopus gear

It is illegal to harvest octopus using:

- snares
- chemicals
- hand pumps
- sharp-pointed instruments

## Rot cord

You must use rot cord on all octopus traps to allow octopus in lost traps to escape. To use rot cord:

- ensure your trap has an opening in the top or side wall that is at least 7 cm x 20 cm (if it is a rectangle) or 11 cm x 11 cm (if it is a square)
- if your trap came with treated twine, remove it. You can tell if twine is treated as it will melt rather than burn
- sew the opening shut with a single strand of untreated cotton twine no greater than #120 (5 mm or 3/16 inches in diameter)
- if your trap has a hinged lid on a rigid frame, secure the lid with only a single strand of untreated cotton twine no greater than #120. No other fastener is permitted

All trap floats must:

- be made of a durable material suitable for marine waters
- be marked with only your name and phone number in legible and visible letters (at least 7.5 cm high) that are consistent in orientation on the float

## Related links

- [Every season every trap counts](#): information on catch success by season, setting safe traps, daily catch limits and more
- [Prawns spawn](#): how to size prawns, identify egg-bearing females and more

**Date modified:**