

Proposed Whelk Pot Tagging regulations
Public Hearing November 12, 2019

4.18 Commercial Whelk Pot Tagging:

- A. Applicability: No person shall set, haul, or maintain a whelk pot unless the pot has attached a valid whelk pot tag issued by the Director.
- B. Application for whelk pot tags shall be made on forms as prescribed by the Director.
- C. Cost of tags shall be borne by the license holder and shall not exceed the cost of producing such tags by the vendor(s) selected by the Department.
- D. Tags shall be permanently attached to the pot in a location clearly visible for inspection.
- E. Tags shall be valid on an annual basis from September 1 through the August 31.
- F. No person shall transfer whelk pot tags between whelk pots, or between individuals or vessels.
- G. No person shall possess at any one time more whelk pot tags than are authorized.
- H. Only tags for the current fishing year and the immediate previous or following fishing year shall be allowed to remain attached to each lobster trap.
- I. Pot tag types and issuance:
 - 1. Original tags: Eligible license holders may order up to the maximum pot limit plus a 10% over-allotment to allow for replacement of tags due to routine losses. When a routine loss of an original tag occurs, the 10% over-allotment shall be used to replace the lost tag.
 - 2. Gear rotation tags: Eligible license holders may order additional tags to be used for gear rotation and maintenance. The number of gear rotation tags issued shall not exceed the maximum pot limit or exceed the number of original tags ordered. Gear rotation tags shall be held by the Director. The Director shall issue gear rotation trap tags on a one-for-one basis upon receipt of the original tags.
 - 3. Catastrophic loss tags: Eligible license holders may order up to two (2) complete sets of catastrophic loss trap tags, in an amount equal to the number of original tags ordered, to be used in the event of catastrophic loss or to replace original trap tags not received.

- a. Catastrophic loss trap tags ordered shall be held by the Director.
- b. Issuance of catastrophic loss tags shall null and void original and gear rotation tags issued. No original tag issued may be used upon issuance of catastrophic trap tags.
- c. Catastrophic loss trap tags shall be distinguishable from original trap tags (i.e. color).