



Commercial Trap Fishing: What you need to know

Line Size

3/8" is the **maximum** diameter for a commercial trap buoy line

What's Happening?

Starting May 1st, 2021 commercial trap must have buoy lines that break at 1,700 pounds of tension. This can be achieved by different options with the use of approved contrivances

Approved Materials for Contrivances

Novabraid break-away "South Shore Sleeve."

Rocky Mount Cordage Company's fully formed 1,700-pound weak rope - Red - 3/8" diameter (runs slightly smaller than true diameter)

Rocky Mount Cordage Company's fully formed 1,700 lb weak rope - "Candy Cane" - 3/8" diameter.





Options to Comply

Fishing specially manufactured buoy lines with "Red" - 3/8" diameter 1,700-pound breaking strength weak rope

Fishing specially manufactured buoy lines with "Candy Cane" - 3/8" diameter 1,700-pound breaking strength weak rope

Inserting NOAA Fisheries approved contrivances into the top 75% of the buoy line every 60'.

Contrivances must at least 3' before attaching to the buoy line

Contrivance #1



4 Tuck Lazy Splice with red or candy cane rope

Contrivance #2



South Shore Sleeve

Contrivance #3



3 Tuck Lazy Splice with red or candy cane rope

Contrivance #4



Red/Candy Cane Eye Splice to Loop 3 Tuck

Contrivance #5



Cut Splice with red or candy cane rope

Contrivance #6



Butt (End) Splice with Red Rope Only

There must be at least one contrivance in the top 75% of the buoy line and no more than 60' of buoy line between contrivances. For example, in a buoy line of less than 60' there needs to be one contrivance anywhere in the top 75% of the line, whereas in a 120' buoy line—where the bottom 30' consists of floating rope and the upper 90' (75%) consists of sink rope—the upper 90' must have one weak contrivance inserted at a location so that no length of buoy line greater than 60' is without a contrivance exists