

Fishery Conservation and Management

§ 654.20

Spring, MD 20910; or the Office of the Federal Register, 800 North Capitol Street, NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC.

(b) A stone crab trap or buoy in the EEZ that is not in compliance with the gear identification requirements specified in paragraph (a) of this section is illegal. Such trap or buoy, and any connecting lines, will be considered unclaimed or abandoned property and may be disposed of in any manner considered appropriate by the Assistant Administrator or an authorized officer. An owner of such trap or buoy remains subject to appropriate civil penalties. A stone crab trap will be presumed to be the property of the most recently documented owner.

[60 FR 13919, Mar. 15, 1995; 60 FR 20196, Apr. 28, 1995]

§ 654.7 Prohibitions.

In addition to the general prohibitions specified in § 620.7 of this chapter, it is unlawful for any person to do any of the following:

(a) Falsify or fail to display and maintain vessel and gear identification, as required by § 654.6(a).

(b) Possess a stone crab in the management area during the period specified in § 654.20(a).

(c) Possess a stone crab trap in the management area during the period specified in § 654.20(c).

(d) Remove from a stone crab in or from the management area, or possess in the management area, a claw that is less than the minimum size limit specified in § 654.21(a).

(e) Fail to return immediately to the water unharmed an egg-bearing stone crab, or strip eggs from or otherwise molest an egg-bearing stone crab; as specified in § 654.21(b).

(f) Hold a stone crab in or from the management area aboard a vessel other than as specified in § 654.21(c).

(g) Use or possess in the management area a stone crab trap that does not have a biodegradable panel, as specified in § 654.22(a).

(h) Pull or tend a stone crab trap in the management area other than during daylight hours, as specified in § 654.22(b).

(i) Willfully tend, open, pull, or otherwise molest another fisherman's

trap, buoy, or line in the management area, as specified in § 654.22(c).

(j) Trawl in a closed area or during a closed season, as specified in §§ 654.23 or 654.24, or as may be implemented under § 654.25(b).

(k) Place a stone crab trap in a closed area or during a closed season, as specified in § 654.24, or as may be implemented under § 654.25(b).

(l) Interfere with fishing or obstruct or damage fishing gear or the fishing vessel of another, as specified in § 654.25(a).

(m) Make any false statement, oral or written, to an authorized officer concerning the taking, catching, harvesting, landing, purchase, sale, possession, or transfer of stone crab.

(n) Interfere with, obstruct, delay, or prevent by any means an investigation, search, seizure, or disposition of seized property in connection with enforcement of the Magnuson Act.

(o) Fish for any species or anchor a fishing vessel in a marine reserve as specified in § 654.28.

[60 FR 13919, Mar. 15, 1995, as amended at 67 FR 47469, July 19, 2002]

§ 654.8 Facilitation of enforcement.

See § 620.8 of this chapter.

§ 654.9 Penalties.

See § 620.9 of this chapter.

Subpart B—Management Measures

§ 654.20 Seasons.

(a) *Closed season.* No person may possess a stone crab in the management area from 12:01 a.m., local time, May 16, through 12 p.m. midnight, local time, October 14, each year. Holding a stone crab in a trap in the water during a soak period or during a removal period (see paragraph (b) of this section), or during any extension thereto, is not deemed possession, provided that, if the trap is removed from the water during such period, such crab is returned immediately to the water with its claws unharvested.

(b) *Placement of traps.* (1) *Prior to the fishing season.* The period of October 5 through October 14 is established as a trap soak period. A stone crab trap