

YOTPOT™

Fully-rigged Recreational Lobster Pot.



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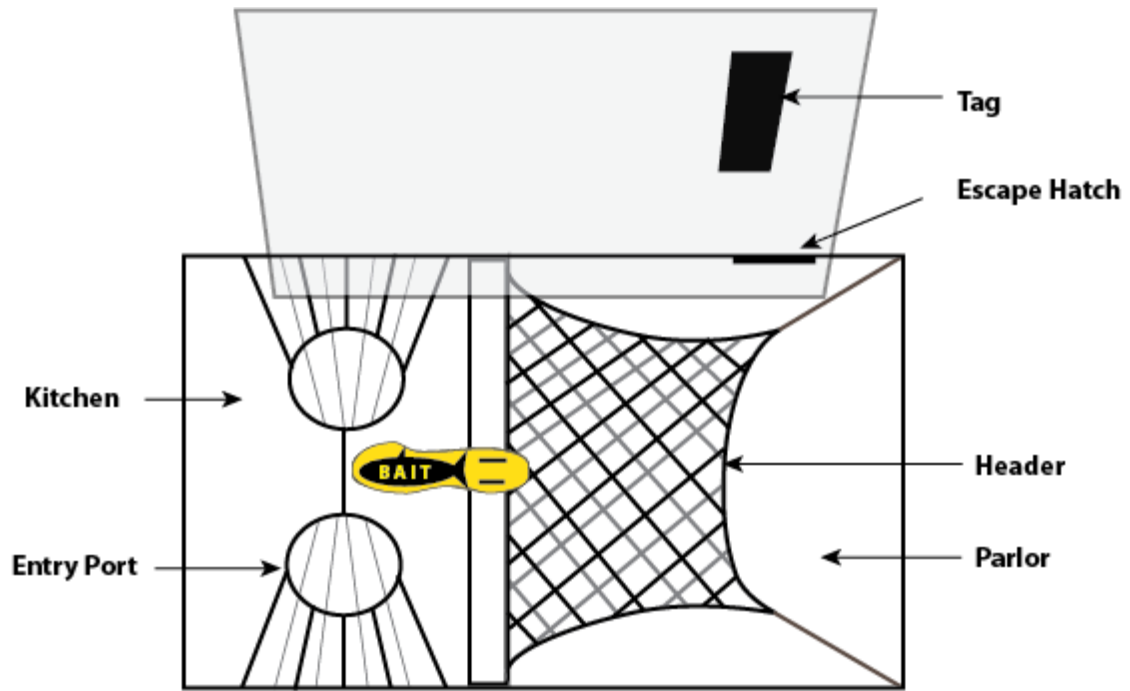
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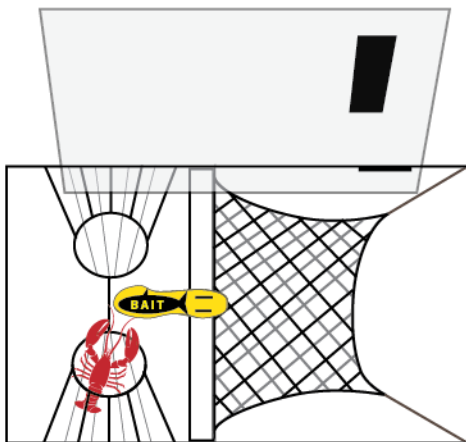
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* Information provided herein was compiled from the Department of Massachusetts Fisheries
[https://www.mass.gov/service-details/learn-about-recreational-lobster-harvest:](https://www.mass.gov/service-details/learn-about-recreational-lobster-harvest)

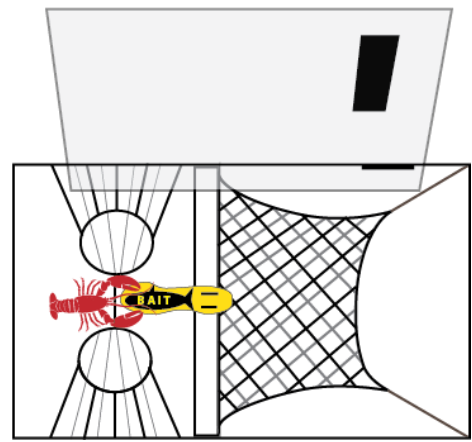
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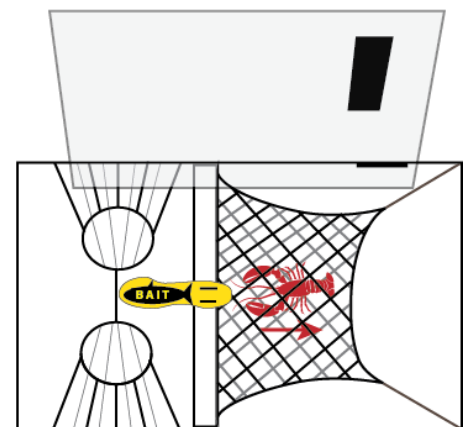
TOP VIEW



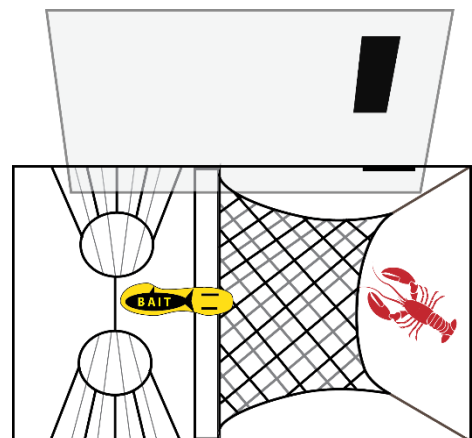
Lobster senses food and enters the Kitchen



Lobster feeds on the bait



Lobster swims through header to seek exit



Lobster becomes trapped in the parlor

What You Need to Know:

Do I need a license to catch lobster?

The Massachusetts recreational lobster license is available either online at massfishhunt.mass.gov, in person at the Mass. Division of Marine Fisheries offices in New Bedford and Gloucester, or through the mail by downloading and mailing the application available at <https://www.mass.gov/files/2017-06/recreational-lobster-permit-2011.pdf>. The cost is \$55 for residents and \$75 for nonresidents and permits are limited to one per household. For more license info, go to <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/who-needs-a-recreational-lobster-permit>. Non-Massachusetts residents should check with their local agencies.

What is the tag for?

Your permit number must be etched onto the tag. Use a nail or rototool (such as a Dremel wheel). The permit number must also be added to the buoy. Use a paint marker or use a soldering iron to permanently etch the permit number onto the buoy.

What lobsters can I keep?

For the South Shore of Massachusetts, the minimum size is a 3 3/8" carapace (measured behind the eye socket to the back edge of the front shell with a measurement gage). The maximum size is 5 1/4 ". These requirements also change by locality (3 1/4" North of Cape Cod, for instance) so check local regulations. But in all cases, egg bearing females must be released and any lobster bearing a "V" notch in the tail must also be released.

What kind of bait can I use?

Oily fish that produce a lot of scent being is the most effective. Mackerel and sea herring, when available, are favorites. Pogies also work well. Two large mackerel or three average herring or pogies usually suffice. Using fresh fish carcasses from your fishing trips also works well.

How do I rig the bait?

The bait is placed in the plastic mesh bag which is then suspended in the kitchen area of the trap by hanging it from the two prongs at the top of the trap. It should be suspended high enough in the trap so the lobster can't reach it from the entry port.

What is the escape hatch for?

Each trap is required to be outfitted with an escape hatch secured with rustable rings so if the pot is lost or the line is cut, the rings eventually will rust and dissolve, allowing the vent to open and expose a much larger opening in the wire. This prevents un-buoyed traps from continually "ghost fishing" where lobsters crawl in and remain trapped until they die.

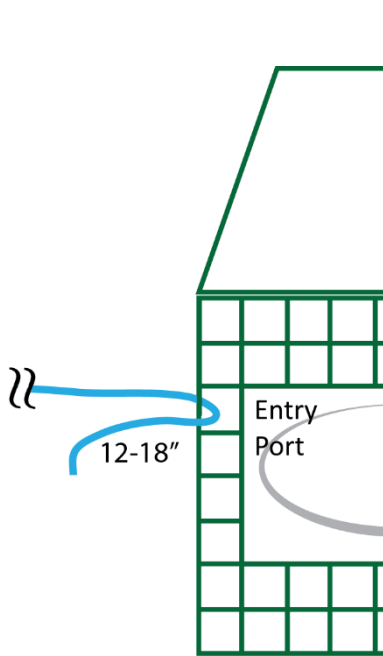
What length of rope is supplied with the YotPot?

The pots come with 50' of line (5/16" dia. for MA and 3/8" dia. for other states). Massachusetts state regulations requires the line to be marked with a 4-inch section of red (marine paint or [colored electrical tape](#), etc) at the half-way mark. Pots also come rigged with a 600-pound test weak link (required by law) that is designed to break away in the event a whale becomes entangled in your gear.

How do I rig my YotPot with the rope and buoy?

The simplest technique for tying the YotPot is to use two overhand knots and then to “tuck” the rope:

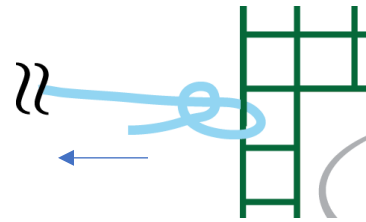
1. Pull the rope through the weak link or pot (we recommend attaching the rope to the upper corner of the pot, on the entry port side, through the third mesh from the top).
2. Allow 12-18” of rope for tying.
3. Tie a simple overhand knot and cinch it tight.
4. Tie a second overhand knot and cinch it tight.
5. Unwind the rope’s three strands by twisting and pull the rope through to tuck it.
6. Repeat the tuck a few inches further and pull to tighten.
7. Do a third tuck if there is remaining rope.



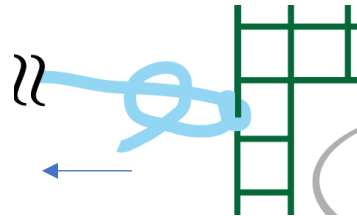
1,2. Position to tie pot to buoy rope (Side view of Yot Pot). Allow 12-18” of rope for tying.

[Click here to see an example from the Dept. of Mass. Fisheries](#)

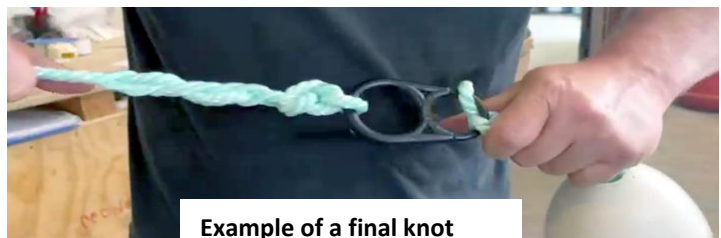
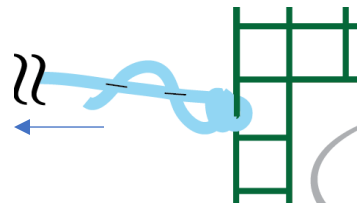
3. Simple overhand knot, cinch.



4. Simple overhand knot, cinch.

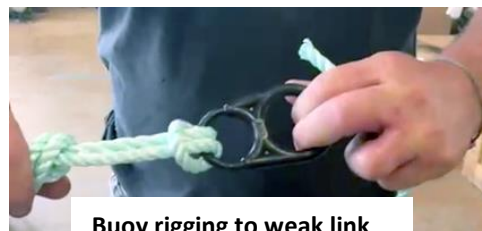
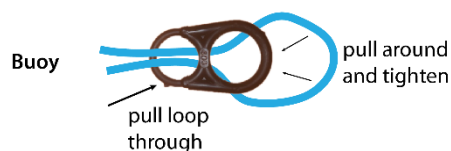


5-7. Unwind strands and tuck rope, 2-3X, pull to Straighten.



Example of a final knot

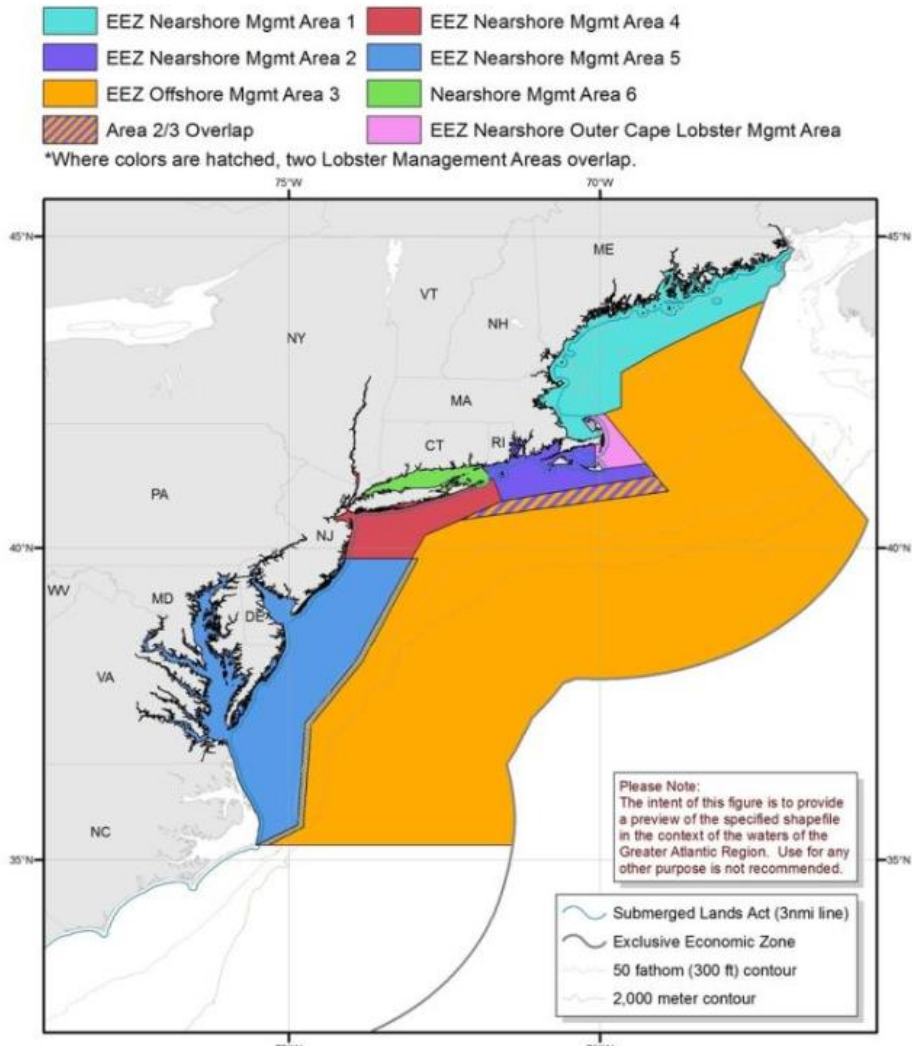
Buoy Rigging



Buoy rigging to weak link

Where should I drop my YotPot?

NOAA designated lobstering areas can found at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/resource/map/lobster-management-areas>. Offshore Area 3 is off-limits to recreational lobstering.



Lobsters prefer rocky habitat, structure and ledges so look for rocky bottom. Do not encroach on another fisherman's area and steer clear of commercial gear and trawls, which is a long string of commercial traps marked by a double buoy at the east end and single buoy at the west end. It's also wise to stay out of high boat traffic areas and popular fishing spots which can result in lost gear when it gets run over and cut by a propeller. Lobster buoys can be difficult to see by fishermen and boaters running between dusk and dawn. You don't want to cause a hazard to navigation.

Be sure of your depth and consider the tide before you drop the pot over the side. If your depth finder marks 48 feet but it's low tide, the buoy will be underwater at high tide. Strong current also will pull a buoy under the surface if you don't have enough line out.

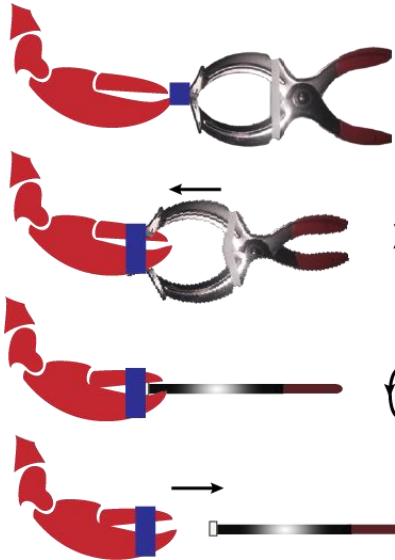
How long should I let the YotPot soak?

Traps can be checked as often as you like but should be checked and re-baited at least once a week. Bait deteriorates much more quickly in the warm water of summer and may need to be changed twice a week to be effective. It lasts much longer in the spring and fall when the water is cold.

What is the best way to grab the lobster from the YotPot?

Being very careful of the claws, you can reach in and grasp it firmly by the top of the tail, behind the top shell.

How do I attach the rubber bands to lobster claws?



Attach a band to the tip of the banding tool

Squeeze the tool and place the band over the claw

Rotate the tool 90 degrees

Pull the tool away from the claw

[Check out this short video showing claw banding](#)

[Instructional videos from the Department of Mass. Fisheries](#)

Special thanks to **Marc Falco**: check out the [full blog post here](#).

