



## State of New Jersey

MAIL CODE 501-03

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

NATURAL & HISTORIC RESOURCES

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*Governor*

KIM GUADAGNO

*Lt. Governor*

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*Commissioner*

### 2015 REGULATION CHANGE – ARTIFICIAL REEFS AND USE OF COMMERCIAL GEAR

February 11, 2016

Dear New Jersey Lobster/Fish/Conch Pot License and Recreational Lobster License Holder:

Please be advised that the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection has adopted new regulations pertaining to the use of commercial fishing gear on the two State water reef sites, Sandy Hook and Axel Carlson reefs. These regulations are now in effect and will be enforced. The adopted rule, found under a new section at N.J.A.C. 7:25-18.5A Artificial Reefs, is summarized below:

- No person shall use, leave, deploy or tend lobster, conch and fish pots within an artificial reef in State waters except in an area designated as a **full access zone**.
  - Please see information below and on the attached enclosures for specific locations of full access zones
- Pots set within the full access zones can only be deployed and tended between the hours of sunrise and sunset.
- License holders deploying or tending lobster, fish or conch pot gear within a full access zone are required to call the Marine Law Enforcement Headquarters two hours prior to doing so and are required to provide operator's name, vessel, lobster/fish/conch pot license number, date, time, port of landing, reef name and full access zone location.
- Individual pots set in these zones must be marked with a buoy and a string of pots must have a buoy attached to both ends.
- Buoys or flags shall meet the requirements of NOAA's Take Reduction Plans for Atlantic Large Whale, Harbor Porpoise and Bottlenose Dolphin.
- All strings shall be limited to 20 pots.
- Depending upon the type of violation, penalty structures for violating these requirements are included in the new rule and are based on a 1st, 2nd and in some cases a 3rd offense.
- Fines and penalties range from \$100.00 to \$200.00 and suspension of license or permanent revocation.
- The new rule provides for forgiveness of a violation following a period of compliance.

### Locations of Full Access Zones

**For the Sandy Hook Reef**, located 1.4 Nautical Miles off of Sea Bright NJ there is one full access zone. The boundaries are:

	Latitude	Longitude
NE Corner	40° 22.800'	73° 55.880'
NW Corner	40° 22.800'	73° 56.600'
MN Corner	40° 22.500'	73° 56.300'
SE Corner	40° 22.500'	73° 55.880'
SW Corner	40° 22.400'	73° 56.600'
MS Corner	40° 22.400'	73° 56.300'

**For the Axel Carlson Reef**, located 2.0 Nautical Miles off Mantoloking NJ there are two full access zones. The boundaries are:

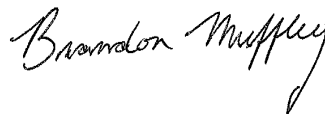
		Latitude	Longitude
<b>North Full Access Zone:</b>	NE Corner	40° 04.110'	73° 59.600'
	NW Corner	40° 04.180'	73° 59.750'
	SE Corner	40° 03.500'	73° 59.600'
	SW Corner	40° 03.500'	73° 59.906'
		Latitude	Longitude
<b>South Full Access Zone:</b>	NE Corner	40° 00.900'	74° 00.000'
	NW Corner	40° 00.900'	74° 00.499'
	SE Corner	40° 00.060'	74° 00.000'
	SW Corner	40° 00.350'	74° 00.650'

This is just a summary of the regulations and should not be considered the full law. A copy of the complete rule adoption can be found at the following link:

[http://www.nj.gov/dep/rules/adoptions/adopt\\_20151102a.pdf](http://www.nj.gov/dep/rules/adoptions/adopt_20151102a.pdf)

If you have any questions regarding this rule change, please contact the Bureau of Marine Fisheries at 609-748-2020.

Sincerely,



Brandon Muffley  
Marine Fisheries Administrator

Enclosures - Reef grids of [Sandy Hook](#) and [Axel Carlson](#) depicting Full Access Zones