Regulatory History on Chafing Gear

2002 Regulations Read As Follows:

660.302 Definitions.

Fishing gear ...(3) Chafing gear. Webbing or other material attached to the codend of a trawl net to protect the codend from wear.

660.322 Gear restrictions.

(a) General. The following types of fishing gear are authorized, with the restrictions set forth in this section: Trawl (bottom and pelagic), hook-and-line, longline, pot or trap, set net (anchored gillnet or trammel net), and spear.

(b) Trawl gear

(1) Use. Trawl nets may be used on and off the seabed. Trawl nets may be fished with or without otter boards, and may use warps or cables to herd fish.

(2) Mesh size. Trawl nets may be used if they meet the minimum mesh sizes set forth in this paragraph (b)(2). The minimum sizes apply throughout the net. Minimum trawl mesh size requirements are met if a 20-gauge stainless steel wedge, 3.0 or 4.5 inches (7.6 or 11.4 cm) (depending on the gear being measured), less one thickness of the metal wedge, can be passed with only thumb pressure through at least 16 of 20 sets of two meshes each of wet mesh.

Minimum Trawl-Mesh Size In Inches

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trawl conception type</th>
<th>Subarea</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vancouver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bottom</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pelagic</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\[\text{Metric conversion: } 3.0 \text{ inches } = 7.6 \text{ cm}; 4.5 \text{ inches } = 11.4 \text{ cm.}\]
(3) **Chafing gear.** Chafing gear may encircle no more than 50 percent of the net's circumference, except as provided in paragraph (b)(5) of this section. No section of chafing gear may be longer than 50 meshes of the net to which it is attached. Except at the corners, the terminal end of each section of chafing gear must not be connected to the net. (The terminal end is the end farthest from the mouth of the net.) Chafing gear must be attached outside any riblines and restraining straps. There is no limit on the number of sections of chafing gear on a net.

(4) **Codends.** Only single-walled codends may be used in any trawl. Double-walled codends are prohibited.

(5) **Pelagic trawls.** Pelagic trawl nets must have unprotected footropes at the trawl mouth, and must not have rollers, bobbins, tires, wheels, rubber discs, or any similar device anywhere in the net. Sweeplines, including the bottom leg of the bridle, must be bare. For at least 20 ft (6.15 m) immediately behind the footrope or headrope, bare ropes or mesh of 16-inch (40.6-cm) minimum mesh size must completely encircle the net. A band of mesh (a skirt) may encircle the net under transfer cables, lifting or splitting straps (chokers), but must be: Over riblines and restraining straps; the same mesh size and coincide knot-to-knot with the net to which it is attached; and no wider than 16 meshes.

---

**2003 Spex Final Rule Change (there was no discussion of change in Prule):**

4. In 660.322, lift the suspension to paragraph (b)(5) and revise it and add a new paragraph (b)(6) to read as follows:

' 660.322  Gear restrictions.

* * * * *

(b) **Trawl gear** * * *

(5) **Large and small footrope trawl gear.** Large footrope trawl gear is bottom trawl gear, as specified at 660.302, with a footrope diameter larger than 8 inches (20 cm) (including rollers, bobbins or other material encircling or tied along the length of the footrope). Small footrope trawl gear is bottom trawl gear, as specified at ' 660.302 and 660.322(b), with a footrope diameter 8 inches (20 cm) or smaller (including rollers, bobbins or other material encircling or tied along the length of the footrope). Chafing gear may be used only on the last 50 meshes of a small footrope trawl, measured from the terminal (closed) end of the coded. Other lines or ropes that run parallel to the footrope may not be augmented or modified to violate footrope size restrictions. For enforcement purposes, the footrope will be measured in a straight line from the outside edge to the opposite outside edge at the widest part on any individual part, including any individual disk, roller, bobbin, or any other device.

(6) **Pelagic or Amidwater@ trawls.** Pelagic trawl nets must have unprotected footropes at the trawl mouth, and must not have rollers, bobbins, tires, wheels, rubber discs, or any similar device anywhere in the net. The footrope of pelagic gear may not be enlarged by encircling it with chains or by any other means. Ropes or lines running parallel to the footrope of pelagic trawl gear must be bare and may not be suspended with chains or any other materials. Sweepings, including the bottom leg of the bridle, must be bare. For at least 20 ft (6.15 m) immediately behind the footrope or headrope, bare ropes or mesh of 16-inch (40.6-cm) minimum mesh size must completely encircle the net. A band of mesh (a skirt) may encircle the net under transfer cables, lifting or splitting straps (chokers), but must be: Over riblines and restraining straps; the same mesh size and coincide knot-to-knot with the net to which it is attached; and no wider than 16 meshes.

* * * * *
2003-2004 Regulations Read As Follows:

660.302 Definitions.

Fishing gear ....(3) Chafing gear. Webbing or other material attached to the codend of a trawl net to protect the codend from wear.

660.322 Gear restrictions. { revised at 68 FR 908, January 7, 2003; revised at 68 FR 11182, March 7, 2003}

(a) General. The following types of fishing gear are authorized, with the restrictions set forth in this section: Trawl (bottom and pelagic), hook-and-line, longline, pot or trap, set net (anchored gillnet or trammel net), and spear.

(b) Trawl gear

(1) Use. Trawl nets may be used on and off the seabed. Trawl nets may be fished with or without otter boards, and may use warps or cables to herd fish.

(2) Mesh size. Trawl nets may be used if they meet the minimum mesh sizes set forth in this paragraph (b)(2). The minimum sizes apply throughout the net. Minimum trawl mesh size requirements are met if a 20-gauge stainless steel wedge, 3.0 or 4.5 inches (7.6 or 11.4 cm) (depending on the gear being measured), less one thickness of the metal wedge, can be passed with only thumb pressure through at least 16 of 20 sets of two meshes each of wet mesh.

Minimum Trawl-Mesh Size In Inches

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trawl conception type</th>
<th>Subarea</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vancouver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bottom………………….</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pelagic………………..</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Metric conversion: 3.0 inches = 7.6 cm; 4.5 inches = 11.4 cm.

(3) Chafing gear. Chafing gear may encircle no more than 50 percent of the net's circumference, except as provided in paragraph (b)(5) of this section. No section of chafing gear may be longer than 50 meshes of the net to which it is attached. Except at the corners, the terminal end of each section of chafing gear must not be connected to the net. (The terminal end is the end farthest from the mouth of the net.) Chafing gear must be attached outside any riblines and restraining straps. There is no limit on the number of sections of chafing gear on a net.

(4) Codends. Only single-walled codends may be used in any trawl. Double-walled codends are prohibited.

(5) Large and small footrope trawl gear. Large footrope trawl gear is bottom trawl gear, as specified at § 660.302, with a footrope diameter larger than 8 inches (20 cm) (including rollers, bobbins or other material encircling or tied along the length of the
footrope). Small footrope trawl gear is bottom trawl gear, as specified at ' 660.302 and 660.322(b), with a footrope diameter 8 inches (20 cm) or smaller (including rollers, bobbins or other material encircling or tied along the length of the footrope). Chafing gear may be used only on the last 50 meshes of a small footrope trawl, measured from the terminal (closed) end of the coded. Other lines or ropes that run parallel to the footrope may not be augmented or modified to violate footrope size restrictions. For enforcement purposes, the footrope will be measured in a straight line from the outside edge to the opposite outside edge at the widest part on any individual part, including any individual disk, roller, bobbin, or any other device. {revised at 68 FR 908, Jan. 7, 2003; revised at 68 FR 11182, March 7, 2003}

(6) Pelagic or Amidwater® trawls. Pelagic trawl nets must have unprotected footropes at the trawl mouth, and must not have rollers, bobbins, tires, wheels, rubber discs, or any similar device anywhere in the net. The footrope of pelagic gear may not be enlarged by encircling it with chains or by any other means. Ropes or lines running parallel to the footrope of pelagic trawl gear must be bare and may not be suspended with chains or any other materials. Sweepings, including the bottom leg of the bridie, must be bare. For at least 20 ft (6.15 m) immediately behind the footrope or headrope, bare ropes or mesh of 16-inch (40.6-cm) minimum mesh size must completely encircle the net. A band of mesh (a Askirt®) may encircle the net under transfer cables, lifting or splitting straps (chokers), but must be: Over riblines and restraining straps; the same mesh size and coincide knot-to-knot with the net to which it is attached; and no wider than 16 meshes. {revised at 68 FR 908, Jan. 7, 2003; revised at 68 FR 11182, March 7, 2003}

Inseason adjustments to management measures; announcement of incidental halibut retention allowance; corrections; request for comments. May 4, 2005 (Volume 70, Number 85, Page 23040-23053)

This action also corrects the trawl gear regulatory language for chafing gear and selective flatfish trawl gear.

Limited entry trawl chafing gear language in Federal regulations at 50 CFR 660.381(b)(3) is clarified to include the chafing gear requirements for small footrope trawl gear (currently found in Sec. 660.381(b)(5) and referenced in the chafing gear requirements at Sec. 660.381(b)(3)) with all other chafing gear requirements. Chafing gear requirements at Sec. 660.381(b)(3) currently read as follows:

Chafing gear may encircle no more than 50 percent of the net's circumference, except as provided in paragraph (b)(5) of this section. No section of chafing gear may be longer than 50 meshes of the net to which it is attached. Except at the corners, the terminal end of each section of chafing gear must not be connected to the net. (The terminal end is the end farthest from the mouth of the net.) Chafing gear must be attached outside any riblines and restraining straps. There is no limit on the number of sections of chafing gear on a net. In addition, chafing gear requirements for small footrope trawl gear are mentioned in Sec. 660.381(b)(5) as follows:

Chafing gear may be used only on the last 50 meshes of a small footrope trawl, measured from the terminal (closed) end of the codend.
To clarify the chafing gear language and keep all chafing gear requirements in one location in the regulations, the Pacific Council recommended and NMFS will modify the regulations to read as follows: Chafing gear may encircle no more than 50 percent of the net’s circumference. No section of chafing gear may be longer than 50 meshes of the net to which it is attached. Chafing gear may be used only on the last 50 meshes of a small footrope trawl, measured from the terminal (closed) end of the codend. Except at the corners, the terminal end of each section of chafing gear on all trawl gear must not be connected to the net. (The terminal end is the end farthest from the mouth of the net.) Chafing gear must be attached outside any riblines and restraining straps. There is no limit on the number of sections of chafing gear on a net.

3. In Sec. 660.381, paragraphs (b)(3), (b)(5) Introductory text and (b)(5)(i) are revised to read as follows:

Sec. 660.381 Limited entry trawl fishery management measures.

* * * * *
(b) * * *
(3) Chafing gear. Chafing gear may encircle no more than 50 percent of the net’s circumference. No section of chafing gear may be longer than 50 meshes of the net to which it is attached. Chafing gear may be used only on the last 50 meshes of a small footrope trawl, measured from the terminal (closed) end of the codend. Except at the corners, the terminal end of each section of chafing gear on all trawl gear must not be connected to the net. (The terminal end is the end farthest from the mouth of the net.) Chafing gear must be attached outside any riblines and restraining straps. There is no limit on the number of sections of chafing gear on a net.

* * * * *
(5) Small footrope trawl gear. Small footrope gear is bottom trawl gear with a footrope diameter of 8 inches (20 cm) or smaller (including rollers, bobbins or other material encircling or tied along the length of the footrope). Other lines or ropes that run parallel to the footrope may not be augmented with material encircling or tied along their length such that they have a diameter larger than 8 inches (20 cm). For enforcement purposes, the footrope will be measured in a straight line from the outside edge to the opposite outside edge at the widest part on any individual part, including any individual disk, roller, bobbin, or any other device.

(i) Selective flatfish trawl gear is a type of small footrope trawl gear. The selective flatfish trawl net must be a two-seamed net with no more than two riblines, excluding the codend. The breastline may not be longer than 3 ft (0.92 m) in length. There may be no floats along the center third of the headrope or attached to the top panel except on the riblines. The footrope must be less than 105 ft (32.26 m) in length. The headrope must be not less than 30 percent longer than the footrope. An explanatory diagram of a selective flatfish trawl net is provided as Figure 1 of part 660, subpart G.

* * * * *

2005 Regulations Read As Follows:

660.302 Definitions.

Fishing gear (11) Trawl gear (iii) Trawl gear components…..(B) Chafing gear. Webbing or other material attached to the codend of a trawl net to protect the codend from wear.
660.381 Limited entry trawl fishery management measures. {added at 69 FR 77012, December 23, 2004; revised at 70 FR 16145, March 30, 2005; revised at 70 FR 23040, May 4, 2005}

(a) General. * * *

(b) Trawl gear requirements and restrictions. Trawl nets may be fished with or without otter boards, and may use warps or cables to herd fish.

(1) Codends. Only single-walled codends may be used in any trawl. Double-walled codends are prohibited.

(2) Mesh size. Groundfish trawl gear must meet the minimum mesh size requirements in this paragraph. Mesh size requirements apply throughout the net. Minimum trawl mesh sizes are: bottom trawl, 4.5 inches (11.4 cm); midwater trawl, 3.0 inches (7.6 cm). Minimum trawl mesh size requirements are met if a 20-gauge stainless steel wedge, less one thickness of the metal wedge, can be passed with only thumb pressure through at least 16 of 20 sets of two meshes each of wet mesh.

(3) Chafing gear. Chafing gear may encircle no more than 50 percent of the net's circumference. No section of chafing gear may be longer than 50 meshes of the net to which it is attached. Chafing gear may be used only on the last 50 meshes of a small footrope trawl, measured from the terminal (closed) end of the codend. Except at the corners, the terminal end of each section of chafing gear on all trawl gear must not be connected to the net. (The terminal end is the end farthest from the mouth of the net.) Chafing gear must be attached outside any riblines and restraining straps. There is no limit on the number of sections of chafing gear on a net. {revised at 70 FR 23040, May 4, 2005}

(4) Large footrope trawl gear. Large footrope gear is bottom trawl gear with a footrope diameter larger than 8 inches (20 cm) (including rollers, bobbins or other material encircling or tied along the length of the footrope).

(5) Small footrope trawl gear. Small footrope gear is bottom trawl gear with a footrope diameter of 8 inches (20 cm) or smaller (including rollers, bobbins or other material encircling or tied along the length of the footrope). Other lines or ropes that run parallel to the footrope may not be augmented with material encircling or tied along their length such that they have a diameter larger than 8 inches (20 cm). For enforcement purposes, the footrope will be measured in a straight line from the outside edge to the opposite outside edge at the widest part on any individual part, including any individual disk, roller, bobbin, or any other device. {revised at 70 FR 23040, May 4, 2005}

(i) Selective flatfish trawl gear is a type of small footrope trawl gear. The selective flatfish trawl net must be a two-seamed net with no more than two riblines, excluding the codend. The breastline may not be longer than 3 ft (0.92 m) in length. There may be no floats along the center third of the headrope or attached to the top panel except on the riblines. The footrope must be less than 105 ft (32.26 m) in length. The headrope must be not less than 30 percent longer than the footrope. An explanatory diagram of a selective flatfish trawl net is provided as Figure 1 of part 660, subpart G. {revised at 70 FR 23040, May 4, 2005}

(ii) [Reserved]

(6) Midwater (or pelagic) trawl gear. Midwater trawl gear must have unprotected footropes at the trawl mouth, and must not have rollers, bobbins, tires, wheels, rubber discs, or any similar device anywhere on any part of the net. The footrope of midwater gear may not be enlarged by encircling it with chains or by any other means. Ropes or
lines running parallel to the footrope of midwater trawl gear must be bare and may not be
suspended with chains or any other materials. Sweep lines, including the bottom leg of
the bridle, must be bare. For at least 20 ft (6.15 m) immediately behind the footrope or
headrope, bare ropes or mesh of 16-inch (40.6-cm) minimum mesh size must completely
encircle the net. A band of mesh (a skirt) may encircle the net under transfer cables,
lifting or splitting straps (chokers), but must be: over riblines and restraining straps; the
same mesh size and coincide knot-to-knot with the net to which it is attached; and no
wider than 16 meshes.

May 2005 Council reconsiders Chafing gear regulations:

GMT Statement - Agenda Item B.6.b Supplemental GMT Report 1 April 2005

Gear Regulations

The GMT recommends two clarifications to limited entry trawl gear requirements found in the
Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Section 660.381.

The first clarification is to the chafing gear requirements found in paragraph (b)(3). The purpose
of this clarification is to include the chafing gear requirements for small footrope gear (currently
found in 660.831 (b)(5) and referenced in current chafing gear requirements section) with all
other chafing gear requirements.

Current chafing gear requirements are as follows: Chafing gear may encircle no more than 50%
of the net's circumference, except as provided in paragraph (b)(5) of this section. No section of
chafing gear may be longer than 50 meshes of the net to which it is attached. Except at the
corners, the terminal end of section of chafing gear must not be connected to the net. (The
terminal end is the end farthest from the mouth of the net.) Chafing gear must be attached outside
any riblines and restraining straps. There is no limit on the number of sections of chafing gear on
a net.

Proposed chafing gear requirements are as follows: Chafing gear may encircle no more than 50%
of the net's circumference. No section of chafing gear may be longer than 50 meshes of the net to
which it is attached. Chafing gear may be used only on the last 50 meshes of a small footrope
trawl, measured from the terminal (closed) end of the codend. Except at the corners, the terminal
end of each section of chafing gear must not be connected to the net. (The terminal end is the end
farthest from the mouth of the net.) Chafing gear must be attached outside any riblines and
restraining straps. There is no limit on the number of sections of chafing gear on a net.

The GMT also recommends removing the sentence describing the small footrope chafing gear
requirements (the sentence that was added to the chafing gear section) from the section
describing small footrope requirements.

The second clarification is to the selective flatfish gear requirements found in paragraph (b)(5)(i).
It was brought to the GMT's attention that buoy placement on selective flatfish gear can alter the
size and shape of the trawl mouth. Changing the shape of the selective trawl mouth can result in
an increased take of rockfish. This increased take of rockfish is not accounted for by the trawl
bycatch model and may result in achieving rockfish OYs more quickly than anticipated. The
The purpose of this clarification to selective flatfish trawl gear requirements is to specify buoy placement and the number of riblines to preserve the original intent of the gear requirement.

Current selective flatfish trawl gear requirements are as follows: The selective flatfish trawl net must be a two-seamed net, and its breastline may not be longer than 3 ft (0.92 m) in length. There may be no floats along the center third of the selective flatfish trawl net's headrope and the headrope must be at least 30% longer in length than the footrope. Selective flatfish trawl gear may not have a footrope that is longer than 105 ft (32.26 m) in length. An explanatory diagram of a selective flatfish trawl net is provided as Figure 1 of Part 660, Subpart G.

Proposed selective flatfish trawl gear requirements are as follows: The selective flatfish trawl net must be a two-seamed net with no more than two riblines, excluding the codend. The breastline may not be longer than 3 ft (0.92 m) in length. There may be no floats along the center third of the headrope or attached to the top panel except on the riblines. The headrope must be at least 30% longer in length than the footrope and the footrope must be shorter than 105 ft (32.26 m) in length. An explanatory diagram of a selective flatfish trawl net is provided as Figure 1 of Part 660, Subpart G.

GAP Statement --Agenda Item B.6.c Supplemental GAP Report April 2005

The GAP also supports the regulatory language changes recommended by the GMT regarding California commercial regulations, clarifying the use of chafing gear on trawls and clarifying the description of selective flatfish trawls.

Finally, the GAP requests the Council consider modifying the existing regulatory language describing the placement of chafing gear. The current language was developed before small footrope trawls and selective flatfish trawls were in wide use, and fishermen have found that it no longer fits with modern trawl construction. The GAP received reports of fishermen having considerable difficulty retrieving their gear, due to twisting caused by the required placement of chafing gear. The GAP believes it would be appropriate to consider modifications in a time frame parallel to developing the 2007 -2009 annual management specifications. Making the change at this time would impose the least workload burden on NMFS and Council staff. If the Council accepts this approach, the GAP will work with industry, the GMT, NMFS, and the Enforcement Consultants to provide a workable and enforceable suggested regulatory amendment.

Enforcement Consultants Report On Final Consideration Of Inseason Adjustments - Agenda Item B.7.c Supplemental EC Report April 2005

The Enforcement Consultants (BC) have reviewed the information relating to inseason management and have the following comments:

Issue 1. Chaffing Gear: The EC sees this as an attempt to clarify existing language. This clarification does not change the intent of the regulation. Because of this, the EC supports the proposed language.
December 29, 2006 Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries Off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; Biennial Specifications and Management Measures; Amendment 16-4; Pacific Coast Salmon Fishery; Final Rule. Federal Register: December 29, 2006 (Volume 71, Number 250 Page 78637-78719)

13. In Sec. 660.381, paragraphs (a), (b)(3), (d)(3), and (d)(4)(i) and (ii) are revised; and paragraph (d)(5) is added to read as follows:

Sec. 660.381 Limited entry trawl fishery management measures.

(a) General. Limited entry trawl vessels include those vessels registered to a limited entry permit with a trawl endorsement. Most species taken in limited entry trawl fisheries will be managed with cumulative trip limits (see trip limits in Tables 3 (North) and 3 (South) of this subpart), size limits (see Sec. 660.370 (h)(5)), seasons (see Pacific whiting at Sec. 660.373), gear restrictions (see paragraph (b) of this section) and closed areas (see paragraph (d) of this section and Sec. 660.390 through 660.399). The trawl fishery has gear requirements and trip limits that differ by the type of trawl gear on board and the area fished. Cowcod retention is prohibited in all fisheries and groundfish vessels operating south of Point Conception must adhere to CCA restrictions (see paragraph (d)(1) of this section and Sec. 660.390). The trip limits in Table 3 (North) and Table 3 (South) of this subpart apply to vessels participating in the limited entry groundfish trawl fishery and may not be exceeded. Federal commercial groundfish regulations are not intended to supersede any more restrictive state commercial groundfish regulations relating to federally-managed groundfish.

(b) * * *

(3) Chafing gear. Chafing gear may encircle no more than 50 percent of the net's circumference. No section of chafing gear may be longer than 50 meshes of the net to which it is attached. Chafing gear may be used only on the last 50 meshes, measured from the terminal (closed) end of the codend. Except at the corners, the terminal end of each section of chafing gear on all trawl gear must not be connected to the net. (The terminal end is the end farthest from the mouth of the net.) Chafing gear must be attached outside any riblines and restraining straps. There is no limit on the number of sections of chafing gear on a net.

* * * * *

2007 – 2010 Regulations Read:

§ 660.381 Limited entry trawl fishery management measures. {added at 69 FR 77012, December 23 2004; revised at 70 FR 16145, March 30, 2005; revised at 70 FR 23040, May 4, 2005}

(a) General. (b) Trawl gear requirements and restrictions. Trawl nets may be fished with or without otter boards, and may use warps or cables to herd fish.

(1) Codends. Only single-walled codends may be used in any trawl. Double-walled codends are prohibited.

(2) Mesh size. Groundfish trawl gear must meet the minimum mesh size requirements in this paragraph. Mesh size requirements apply throughout the net. Minimum trawl mesh
sizes are: bottom trawl, 4.5 inches (11.4 cm); midwater trawl, 3.0 inches (7.6 cm). Minimum trawl mesh size requirements are met if a 20–gauge stainless steel wedge, less one thickness of the metal wedge, can be passed with only thumb pressure through at least 16 of 20 sets of two meshes each of wet mesh.

(3) **Chafing gear.** Chafing gear may encircle no more than 50 percent of the net's circumference. No section of chafing gear may be longer than 50 meshes of the net to which it is attached. Chafing gear may be used only on the last 50 meshes, measured from the terminal (closed) end of the codend. Except at the corners, the terminal end of each section of chafing gear on all trawl gear must not be connected to the net. (The terminal end is the end farthest from the mouth of the net.) Chafing gear must be attached outside any riblines and restraining straps. There is no limit on the number of sections of chafing gear on a net. {revised at 70 FR 23040, May 4, 2005; revised at 71 FR 78638, December 29, 2006}

(4) **Large footrope trawl gear.** Large footrope gear is bottom trawl gear with a footrope diameter larger than 8 inches (20 cm) (including rollers, bobbins or other material encircling or tied along the length of the footrope).

(5) **Small footrope trawl gear.** Small footrope gear is bottom trawl gear with a footrope diameter of 8 inches (20 cm) or smaller (including rollers, bobbins or other material encircling or tied along the length of the footrope). Other lines or ropes that run parallel to the footrope may not be augmented with material encircling or tied along their length such that they have a diameter larger than 8 inches (20 cm). For enforcement purposes, the footrope will be measured in a straight line from the outside edge to the opposite outside edge at the widest part on any individual part, including any individual disk, roller, bobbin, or any other device. {revised at 70 FR 23040, May 4, 2005}

(i) **Selective flatfish trawl gear** is a type of small footrope trawl gear. The selective flatfish trawl net must be a two-seamed net with no more than two riblines, excluding the codend. The breastline may not be longer than 3 ft (0.92 m) in length. There may be no floats along the center third of the headrope or attached to the top panel except on the riblines. The footrope must be less than 105 ft (32.26 m) in length. The headrope must be not less than 30 percent longer than the footrope. An explanatory diagram of a selective flatfish trawl net is provided as Figure 1 of part 660, subpart G. {revised at 70 FR 23040, May 4, 2005}

(ii) **Reserved**

(6) **Midwater (or pelagic) trawl gear.** Midwater trawl gear must have unprotected footropes at the trawl mouth, and must not have rollers, bobbins, tires, wheels, rubber discs, or any similar device anywhere on any part of the net. The footrope of midwater gear may not be enlarged by encircling it with chains or by any other means. Ropes or lines running parallel to the footrope of midwater trawl gear must be bare and may not be suspended with chains or any other materials. Sweep lines, including the bottom leg of the bridle, must be bare. For at least 20 ft (6.15 m) immediately behind the footrope or headrope, bare ropes or mesh of 16–inch (40.6–cm) minimum mesh size must completely encircle the net. A band of mesh (a “skirt”) may encircle the net under transfer cables, lifting or splitting straps (chokers), but must be: over riblines and restraining straps; the same mesh size and coincide knot-to-knot with the net to which it is attached; and no wider than 16 meshes.
2011 Regulations to Present Read:

§ 660.130 Trawl fishery—management measures. {revised at 75 FR 78344, 12/15/2010; revised at 75 FR 82296, 12/30/2010}

(a) General. Limited entry trawl vessels are those vessels registered to a limited entry permit with a trawl endorsement and those vessels registered to an MS permit. Most species taken in limited entry trawl fisheries will be managed with quotas (see § 660.140), allocations or set-asides (see § 660.150 or § 660.160), or cumulative trip limits (see trip limits in Tables 1 (North) and 1 (South) of this subpart), size limits (see § 660.60 (h)(5), subpart C), seasons (see Pacific whiting at § 660.131(b), subpart D), gear restrictions (see paragraph (b) of this section) and closed areas (see paragraph (e) of this section and §§ 660.70 through 660.79, subpart C). The trawl fishery has gear requirements and harvest limits that differ by the type of trawl gear on board and the area fished. Groundfish vessels operating south of Point Conception must adhere to CCA restrictions (see paragraph (e)(1) of this section and § 660.70, subpart C). The trip limits in Tables 1 (North) and 1 (South) of this subpart apply to vessels participating in the limited entry groundfish trawl fishery and may not be exceeded. Federal commercial groundfish regulations are not intended to supersede any more restrictive state commercial groundfish regulations relating to federally-managed groundfish. {revised at 75 FR 78344, 12/15/2010}

(b) Trawl gear requirements and restrictions. Trawl nets may be fished with or without otter boards, and may use warps or cables to herd fish.

(1) Codends. Only single-walled codends may be used in any trawl. Double-walled codends are prohibited.

(2) Mesh size. Groundfish trawl gear must meet the minimum mesh size requirements in this paragraph. Mesh size requirements apply throughout the net. Minimum trawl mesh sizes are: Bottom trawl, 4.5 inches (11.4 cm); midwater trawl, 3.0 inches (7.6 cm). Minimum trawl mesh size requirements are met if a 20-gauge stainless steel wedge, less one thickness of the metal wedge, can be passed with only thumb pressure through at least 16 of 20 sets of two meshes each of wet mesh.

(3) Chafing gear. Chafing gear may encircle no more than 50 percent of the net's circumference. No section of chafing gear may be longer than 50 meshes of the net to which it is attached. Chafing gear may be used only on the last 50 meshes, measured from the terminal (closed) end of the codend. Except at the corners, the terminal end of each section of chafing gear on all trawl gear must not be connected to the net. (The terminal end is the end farthest from the mouth of the net.) Chafing gear must be attached outside any riblines and restraining straps. There is no limit on the number of sections of chafing gear on a net.

(4) Large footrope trawl gear. Large footrope gear is bottom trawl gear with a footrope diameter larger than 8 inches (20 cm) (including rollers, bobbins or other material encircling or tied along the length of the footrope). Fishing with bottom trawl gear with a footrope diameter greater than 19 inches (48 cm) (including rollers, bobbins, or other material encircling or tied along the length of the footrope) is prohibited anywhere in EFH within the EEZ, as defined by latitude/longitude coordinates at §660.75, subpart C.
(5) **Small footrope trawl gear.** Small footrope gear is bottom trawl gear with a footrope diameter of 8 inches (20 cm) or smaller (including rollers, bobbins or other material encircling or tied along the length of the footrope). Other lines or ropes that run parallel to the footrope may not be augmented with material encircling or tied along their length such that they have a diameter larger than 8 inches (20 cm). For enforcement purposes, the footrope will be measured in a straight line from the outside edge to the opposite outside edge at the widest part on any individual part, including any individual disk, roller, bobbin, or any other device.

(i) **Selective flatfish trawl gear.** Selective flatfish trawl gear is a type of small footrope trawl gear. The selective flatfish trawl net must be a two-seamed net with no more than two riblines, excluding the codend. The breastline may not be longer than 3 ft (0.92 m) in length. There may be no floats along the center third of the headrope or attached to the top panel except on the riblines. The footrope must be less than 105 ft (32.26 m) in length. The headrope must be not less than 30 percent longer than the footrope. An explanatory diagram of a selective flatfish trawl net is provided as Figure 1 of part 660, subpart D.

(ii) [Reserved]

(6) **Midwater (or pelagic) trawl gear.** Midwater trawl gear must have unprotected footropes at the trawl mouth, and must not have rollers, bobbins, tires, wheels, rubber discs, or any similar device anywhere on any part of the net. The footrope of midwater gear may not be enlarged by encircling it with chains or by any other means. Ropes or lines running parallel to the footrope of midwater trawl gear must be bare and may not be suspended with chains or any other materials. Sweep lines, including the bottom leg of the bridle, must be bare. For at least 20 ft (6.15 m) immediately behind the footrope or headrope, bare ropes or mesh of 16-inch (40.6-cm) minimum mesh size must completely encircle the net. A band of mesh (a “skirt”) may encircle the net under transfer cables, lifting or splitting straps (chokers), but must be: over riblines and restraining straps; the same mesh size and coincide knot-to-knot with the net to which it is attached; and no wider than 16 meshes.

**IN SUMMARY**

**In May 05 for 07-08 Spex ----**The GAP requests the Council consider modifying the existing regulatory language describing the placement of chafing gear. The current language was developed before small footrope trawls and selective flatfish trawls were in wide use, and fishermen have found that it no longer fits with modern trawl construction. The GAP received reports of fishermen having considerable difficulty retrieving their gear, due to twisting caused by the required placement of chafing gear. The GAP believes it would be appropriate to consider modifications in a time frame parallel to developing the 2007-2008 annual management specifications. Making the change at this time would impose the least workload burden on NMFS and Council staff. If the Council accepts this approach, the GAP will work with industry, the GMT, NMFS, and the Enforcement Consultants to provide a workable and enforceable suggested regulatory amendment.
June 06 GMT - Chafing Gear Regulations The GMT recommends that NMFS revise chafing gear requirements in federal regulation. In 2003, when new chafing gear requirements were added for small footrope trawl gear, reference language regarding the chafing gear requirements for midwater trawl were inadvertently changed in the regulation. The GMT believes that the regulatory language should be revised such that the chafing gear requirements are reinstated for midwater trawl gear and maintained for small footrope trawl.

In the 07-08 Proposed Rule -- The Council’s GMT reviewed current groundfish trawl regulations as part of its effort to draft recommendations to the Council on the 2007–2008 fishery. In its review, the GMT found that trawl chafing gear regulations that had formerly been in place for midwater trawl gear had been inadvertently removed from Federal gear regulations. Based on the GMT’s review, the Council recommended that NMFS revise gear regulations to ensure that chafing gear requirements are reinstated for midwater trawl gear and maintained for small footrope trawl gear.