

Background to current gear marking regulations in European waters

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Gear marking – why?*

- To establish ownership for the purpose of fisheries control and enforcement
- To reduce navigational hazard to other maritime users
- To contribute to better cohabitation between towed and static/ passive gear
- To lessen the environmental impact of fisheries gear by reducing gear loss

* based on correspondence received from Commission in response to NWWRAC submission



2005

- European Commission regulation 356 of 2005
Laying down detailed rules for the marking of passive fishing gear and beam trawls.
- Based on specifications first laid down in Annex IV of the 1967 convention on conduct of fishing operations in the north Atlantic. Which most European countries are signatories to.
- Predated by EEC 1387 of 1987



EC 356 of 2005



Regulation marker buoys found to be:

- Hazardous to fishermen
- Impractical
- Costly

2007

● European Commission funded project

- Review of International gear marking best practice and present an alternative gear marking system.
- Carried out by BIM in consultation with stakeholders.

● Summary of recommendations

- Regulation marker buoy should be redesigned to take account of differing vessel sizes and fishery specific considerations
- Any further increase in scope of regulation should be carried out with stakeholder consultation at RAC level



2011

- EU 404 of 2011

Laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 establishing a Community control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of the Common Fisheries Policy

- Gear marking requirements include positive and negative elements.



EU 404 of 2011

- Positive elements – gear marking
 - Radar reflectors no longer required
 - Intermediate buoys required for gear lengths exceeding 5nm rather than 1nm in EC 356 of 2005



EU 404 of 2011

● Negative elements – gear marking

- Method of differentiating western and eastern buoy remains.
- The scope of the 2005 regulation has been widened without RAC consultation and now includes trap and pot fisheries in EU waters outside 12nm.

