

STATE OF FLORIDA
FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Order No. EO 15-25

Stone Crab Trap Gear Specifications

The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission of the State of Florida, acting under the authority of Article IV, Section 9, of the Florida Constitution, and acting through its Executive Director under Delegations of Authority Paragraph 17 and Paragraph 22, hereby prohibits the use of round entrances (throats) and limits the allowable dimensions of all other throats to no larger than 5 ½ inches by 3 ⅛ inches for stone crab traps fished in Collier, Monroe, and Miami-Dade counties. The purpose of this modification is to limit the ability of stone crab harvesters to use stone crab traps to intentionally target spiny lobster by using throats that are not traditional for stone crab traps in this region. The modification only applies to Collier, Monroe, and Miami-Dade counties because these three counties encompass the majority of the region where the stone crab and spiny lobster fisheries overlap. The authorized throat for stone crab traps in Collier, Monroe, and Miami-Dade counties is as follows:

1. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in 68B-13.008, Florida Administrative Code (FAC), in state and federal waters off Collier, Monroe, and Miami-Dade counties:
 - a. Round throats are prohibited in stone crab traps.
 - b. Throats larger than 5 ½ inch by 3 ⅛ inch are prohibited in stone crab traps.
2. Participants in the stone crab fishery in all other counties are subject to the stone crab trap specifications as listed in 68B-13.008, FAC.
3. All other rules of the Commission relating to stone crab trap specifications shall remain in effect.
4. This order shall take effect upon execution and expire at 12:01 A.M. on May 16, 2016.

Specific Authority:
Law Implemented:

Article IV, Section 9, Florida Constitution
Article IV, Section 9, Florida Constitution



Given under my hand and seal of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission on this 13th day of October, 2015.

Nick Wiley, Executive Director

Attest:

Agency Clerk