

**Floating Fish Trap Advisory Panel
Meeting Minutes
July 19, 2006
Division of Fish and Wildlife
Jamestown, RI**

There were 8 people in attendance (*primary advisory panel member; ^ alternate member)

George Allen, Co Chairman

Ken Ketcham, Co Chairman

Tom Hoxie*

Bruce Getchell*

Ed Cook^A

Anthony Parascondolo*

Joe Clemente

Brian Murphy, RIDFW

Discussion on floating fish trap markers

The Floating Fish Trap Advisory Panel was convened to discuss current marking requirements for floating fish traps and specifically the lack of cooperation from the Coast Guard. G. Allen stated that the Coast Guard has not been forthcoming with recommendations on which traps should be marked and suggested removing all reference to the Coast Guard from the regulations. He also suggested adding language that requires high-flyers for all traps. There were no objections from panel members present. Further discussion ensued on educating the public about floating fish traps; where they are located, how they are constructed, how they are marked, how to avoid them, etc. A suggestion was made to incorporate a segment on floating fish trap education in all boating safety courses offered by the DEM. The panel agreed that it is a good idea.

Panel Recommendations: Remove all reference to the Coast Guard from floating fish trap regulations and add language requiring five high flyers to be placed around each fish trap; one at the end of the leader, two on either side of the trap mid way along the leader, and two at the head of the trap. The panel also recommends that the RIMFC request the Director to require a segment on floating fish traps in boating safety courses.