

# Safe Boating, Angling and Commercial Fishing in Owen Sound and Colpoys Bay

## Marking Of Commercial Fishing Nets



A staff, pole or stake in the water on which the uppermost flag is a 30-cm (12 in.) square flag signifies that commercial fishing activities are occurring in your immediate area.

## ABOUT THIS PAMPHLET

The SON Commercial Fishery has a standardized net-marking system to aid you in your safe boating and angling practices in Owen Sound and Colpoys Bay. This system will help you recognize when commercial fishing activities are occurring in Owen Sound and Colpoys Bay and help **REMIND YOU TO EXERCISE ADDITIONAL CAUTION.**

Included in this pamphlet is a description of the most common types of gillnet gear utilized by commercial fishing operations. By understanding how the various kinds of fishing gear are used and where they are located, it is our hope that you can avoid possible collision or entanglement with commercial fishing gear.

### **WE URGE YOU TO READ THE ENTIRE CONTENTS OF THIS PAMPHLET CAREFULLY.**

By doing so, you may avoid collision, entanglement or possible swamping of your recreational vessel.

If you are a boater, this pamphlet's information will help you avoid conflict with commercial fishing vessels making their way through the water and possible collision with submerged fishing nets.

If you are an angler, there are a few simple suggestions in this pamphlet which will aid you in your efforts to avoid entanglement of your tackle or down-rigger in submerged fishing nets.

## CAUTION!

Fishing vessels that are engaged in commercial fishing operations have restricted manoeuvring capabilities. Navigational protocol requires other vessels to give way while commercial fishing operations are under way.

### **Exercise caution when approaching these vessels!**

It is an offence under the Fisheries Act to interfere with commercial fishing gear.

It is an offence under the Canadian Criminal Code to damage or interfere with property. If you observe anyone tampering with commercial fishing gear, please call your nearest MNR office or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

## SAFE BOATING AND ANGLING PRACTICES NEAR COMMERCIAL FISHING ACTIVITY IN OWEN SOUND AND COLPOYS BAY

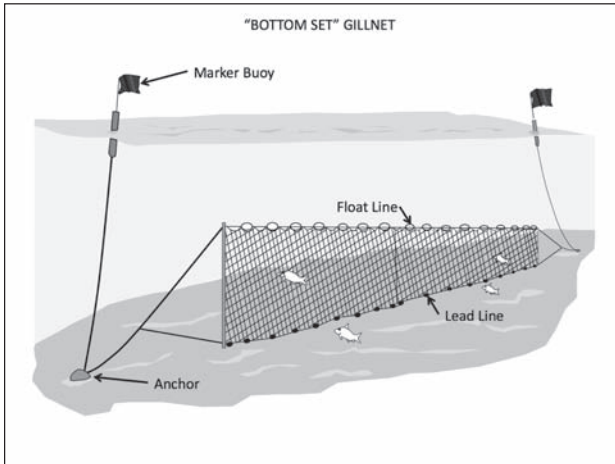
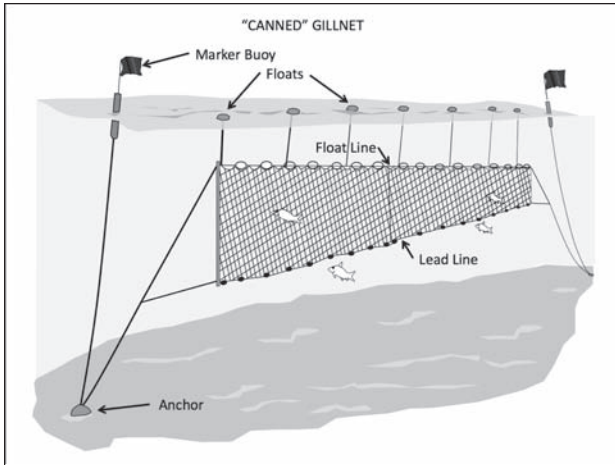
- If you observe either of the standardized net-marking aids or see a fishing tug engaged in fishing activities, refer to the information contained in this pamphlet. It will help you determine the distance you should maintain from the vessel and the fishing gear to ensure your safety.
- Nets in Owen Sound and Colpoys Bay will not exceed 300 metres in length. **DO NOT CROSS BETWEEN THE MARKERS. NAVIGATE AROUND THE MARKERS.**
- If you are using a down-rigger in your fishing activities, be careful not to entangle your gear in commercial nets. Failure to successfully free your down-rigger from the net may cause the stern of your boat to swing into the wind and allow wave action to swamp your boat. **ALWAYS KEEP AN EASILY ACCESSIBLE PAIR OF WIRE CUTTERS NEAR YOUR DOWN-RIGGER TO AVOID A POTENTIALLY SERIOUS ACCIDENT.**

## GENERAL BOATING SAFETY

- \* Ensure your vessel is equipped with Canadian Coast Guard approved life-saving equipment, and confirm your vessel is in seaworthy condition prior to departure.
- \* Check the weather reports prior to your excursion. Lake Huron is subject to sudden and extreme weather changes that affect boating conditions.
- \* Let a friend, neighbour or the marina operator know where you are going and at what time you expect to return.
- \* All standard and applicable boating regulations continue to apply.

# SAFE BOATING AND ANGLING PRACTICES NEAR GILLNETS

Stay a minimum of 25 metres (80 feet) away from marker buoys. **DO NOT CROSS BETWEEN THE MARKERS.**



MNR # 52723

ISBN 978-1-4606-1907 (Print) ISBN 978-1-4606-1908-7 (PDF)

© Queen's Printer of Ontario, 2013  
Printed in Ontario, Canada