

## II. GEARS<sup>8</sup>

Each HMS permit allows the use of certain fishing gears, depending on: 1) the type of permit and 2) the fish species. Please see each species section for fishing gear rules. The following gears are authorized for recreational HMS fishing:

<b>Bandit gear</b>	a vertical hook and line gear with rods attached to the vessel when in use. Manual, electric, or hydraulic reels may be used to retrieve lines.
<b>Rod and reel</b>	a handheld fishing rod with a manually or electronically operated reel attached.
<b>Handline</b>	a mainline with no more than two gangions or hooks attached. Must be retrieved by hand, not by mechanical means, and must be attached to, or in contact with, a vessel.
<b>Speargun</b>	a muscle-powered speargun equipped with a trigger mechanism, a spear with a tip designed to penetrate and retain fish, and terminal gear. Terminal gear may include, but is not limited to, trailing lines, reels, and floats. The term “muscle-powered speargun” means a speargun that stores potential energy provided by the operator’s muscles, and that releases only the amount of energy that the operator has provided to it from his or her own muscles. The operator must be physically in the water when using this gear, and may freedive, use SCUBA, or other underwater breathing devices. <sup>9</sup>
<b>Greenstick</b>	an actively trolled mainline attached to a vessel and elevated or suspended above the surface of the water with no more than 10 hooks or gangions attached to the mainline. The suspended line, attached gangions and/or hooks, and catch may be retrieved collectively by hand or mechanical means. Greenstick does not constitute a pelagic longline or bottom longline.
<b>Secondary gears</b>	(a.k.a. “cockpit” gears) may be used only at boatside to aid and assist in subduing, or bringing onboard, Atlantic HMS that have first been caught or captured using primary gears authorized for recreational HMS fishing. Examples: dart harpoons, gaffs, and tail ropes. Secondary gears may not be used to capture, or attempt to capture, free-swimming or undersized HMS. <sup>10</sup>

### HOOK TYPES

<b>Circle hook</b>	a hook originally designed and manufactured so that the point of the hook turns perpendicularly back toward the shank of the hook to form a generally circular or oval shape.
<b>Offset circle hook</b>	a circle hook originally designed and manufactured so that the barbed end of the hook is displaced relative to the parallel plane of the eyed-end, or shank, of the hook when laid on its side.
<b>J-hook</b>	although not defined in federal regulations, J-hooks are fishing hooks that are generally shaped like the letter “J” and do not meet the definition of a circle hook.

## FISHING TECHNIQUES

### Surface trolling<sup>11</sup>

A fishing technique where the lines trail behind a vessel which is in constant motion at speeds in excess of four knots with a visible wake. Such trolling may not involve the use of down riggers, wire lines, planers, or similar devices.

### Downrigger<sup>12</sup>

A piece of equipment attached to a vessel that has a weight on a cable that is attached to hook-and-line gear to maintain lures or bait at depth while trolling. Downriggers may be used with the authorized recreational hook and line gears including bandit, rod and reel, handline, and greenstick gear.