

## Division of Aquatic Resources lay net rules FAQ (9/1/23)

What is the new lay net permit?

- A law passed by the legislature in 2021 authorized DAR to create a permit system for lay gill nets. The law repeals the requirement for registering individual nets, instead each user must obtain an annual permit through the DAR website ([dlnr.hawaii.gov/DAR](http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/DAR)) or by applying at a DAR office.

Does the permit cost anything?

- The annual lay net permit is free for Hawaii Residents and active military. For non-residents, there is a fee of \$25.

Are nets still required to be tagged?

- Yes, each net must have at least 4 tags (one in each corner) that display the permit number of the person using the net. Additionally the permit number must be displayed on surface buoys attached to each end of the net. DAR is not providing tags for the permit numbers, so you will have to make your own tags.

Do I have to be present when my net is used or can someone else fish for me with my permit?

- The permit holder must be always present while the net is deployed. Another new rule change is that nets may not be left unattended **for any amount of time.**

Can I set more than one net at a time?

- No, it is unlawful to fish with more than one net at a time. A lay net may only be set for a maximum of 4 hours and the same person may not set another net within 24 hours of a set. In other words, once you retrieve your net, you may not set it again for 24 hours.

What if I'm not setting net? Do these rules apply to surround netting, pa'i pa'i, or hukilau?

- These rules only apply to lay gill nets. A gill net deployed stationarily (i.e. not moving or being actively worked) in the water is considered a lay net. Pa'i pa'i is a method of lay net fishing because fish are chased into a stationary gill net. On the other hand, surround netting and hukilau are not lay nets because the nets are actively moved.

What about lobster nets? Are they considered lay nets?

- Lobster nets with large mesh (generally 5 inches and up) made of cotton or fiber twine are considered entangling, rather than gilling nets. The lay net rules apply to gill nets only. However, if a fisher uses a lobster net to gill fish, the net is now considered a gill net and will be subject to lay net rules and permitting requirements.

Are there any changes to the legal net dimensions?

- No, the legal eye size and overall dimensions for lay nets are the same. Minimum 2 ¾ inch stretched-mesh eye size, maximum 125 feet long and 7 feet high.

A full copy of the lay net rules can be found on the DAR website or in the Hawaii Fishing Regulations booklet available at DAR offices or fishing and tackle shops statewide.