

Ludington Trap Net information

Provided by the Ludington Charter Boat Association



Prepared by the [Ludington Charter Boat Association](#)

The purpose of this page is to inform about Trap Nets and to provide images of how trap nets look under the water. The Net alert pdf page will be updated immediately any time confirmed new information is known to the Association.

The most recent known and possible net locations are posted on the net alert pdf. New information will be posted as provided by the LRBOI Resources Management, or the Michigan DNR.

Caution should be taken in the vicinity of all identified or possible net locations, and fisherman are advised to keep a look out for nets in new locations.

When additional information about the movement of nets and new net locations are known, the Net Alert will be updated.

The Ludington Charter Boat Association

A printable version of the net alert can be found elsewhere in the "information" section.

Tribal fishers have placed many trap nets in the Ludington area.

Note: Only nets located from Little Sauble Point: 43° 39', (south of Ludington) to latitude 44° 10', (north of Ludington) are included in the Ludington Area Charterboat Association net Alert. We have been informed that there are no LRBOI nets either south of Little Sauble Point or north of Big Point Sauble.

Several nets are known to be located in the Ludington sector. These nets are generally well marked. The depths of the nets vary. The nets stand approximately 30' up from the bottom. It is possible to fish over the nets depending on the depth of your fishing gear. However staff and buoy lines extend to the surface and may be inclined in the direction of the wind or current. These lines should be carefully avoided. Occasionally, due to accidents, strong winds or currents, the net buoys and flags may not be visible. New net locations will be added to the Net Alert list as soon as the locations are known to the LACA and are confirmed. Please check the net alert often for new net locations and for new information about older nets.

All net related incidents should be reported to the MDNR commercial fisheries division by calling the **RAP line (800-292-7800)**. Please record the GPS location, including degrees and minutes; the depth, the time, weather, sea conditions, and the presence and type of any flags, buoys, floats or other net markings. This is extremely important for the MDNR record keeping and helps to lead to corrective actions.

All sightings of unmarked or improperly marked nets should also be reported, along with as much information as possible. Please include the day and time; the weather, and the full Latitude and Longitude information and the depth.

Also, anyone observing any length of yellow polypropylene line floating loose at or just below the surface in the vicinity of a net location is urged to promptly report the exact GPS location including the depth, to the DNR RAP (800-292-7800) line as soon as possible. Please note the approximate diameter of the line if possible.

Net entanglement or other net related incidents may also be reported to the Mason-Oceana County Emergency Hot Line at: (231) 869-5858. Emergency help may be provided.

In the event of eminent danger of loss of life or vessel, call the USCG on FM 16 or by cell: 231-843-2447.

Net locations (when they are known) are listed from South to North, by their last known position, with conditions as noted:

Several trap nets are currently fishing in our zone. All known nets are located south of Big Point Sauble. None are located north of Big Point.

Note: GPS coordinates vary slightly from instrument to instrument. All net locations should be regarded as approximate, and subject to change.

For all nets: Anchors are normally marked with a staff buoy, and may be located up to several hundred feet inside or outside of the pot staff. Be very careful to watch for anchor and pot staffs. In some cases the wing anchors are also marked with staffs.

The nets stand 30' high from the bottom upward. Most nets are now marked with at least three staffs. Normally the staff closest to shore has two flags, orange over black. Since 2010, the Ludington area fisher has been using larger flags; 14" square. These flags are quite visible and will show on some radars.

Please download a pdf list of net locations suitable for printing and carrying on your vessel from this link:

You can download the net alert pdf with the GPS locations of all current known nets in the Information section, or in the fishing report section.

Please check back frequently. The pdf will be updated whenever more information is obtained.

Reminder: Additional nets may be placed or currently listed nets may be moved without warning, and several days or weeks may elapse before the net alert can be updated.

Information about Trap Nets and their markings:

The Ludington site tries to identify all nets in the area from Little Point Sauble to several miles north of Big Sauble Point.

Floats or staffs may also mark the positions of the wings and or anchors. The float lines may be especially difficult to see in periods of poor visibility or rough water, and the possibility exists that excess float line may be floating loosely near the floats. Depending on the depth of water and other factors, the total length of the net and the lines to its anchors may be as much as 1,500 feet in the direction generally perpendicular to the shore.

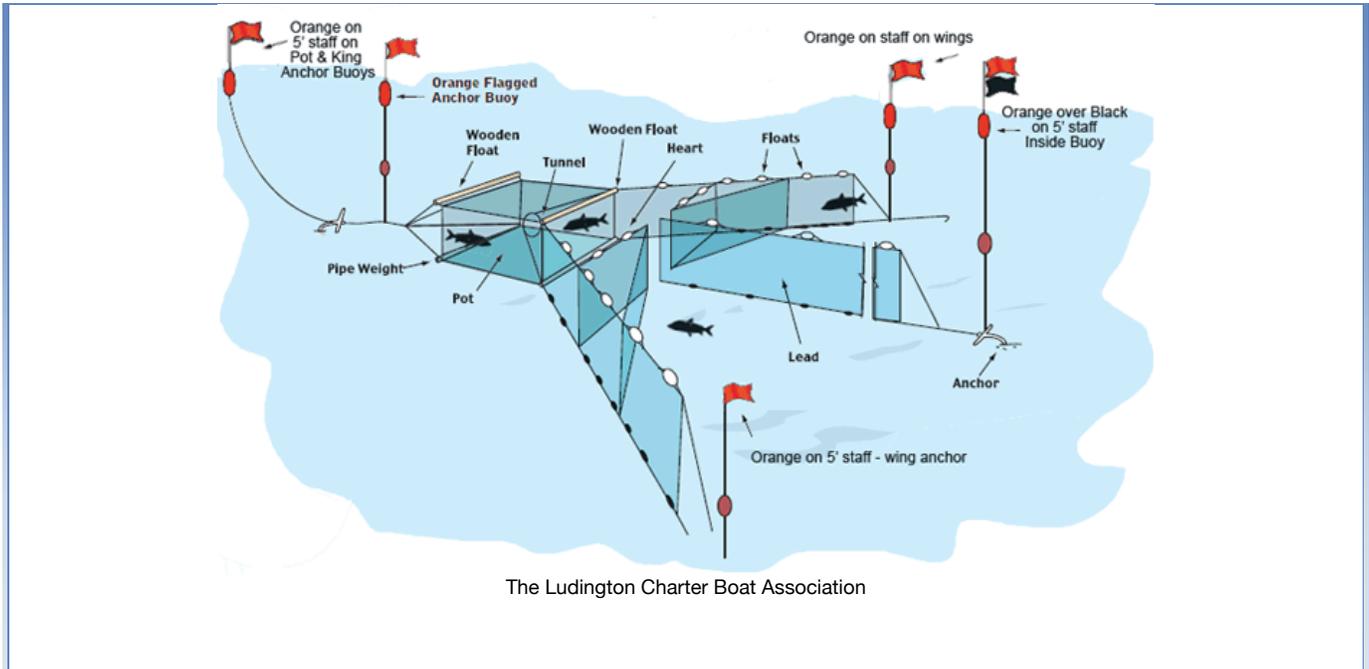
They may extent up to several hundred feet in the direction parallel to the shore. Wind, waves, fog or darkness may make it difficult to observe the markings. Boaters and fishermen are urged to exercise extreme caution near the nets. Boaters traversing the vicinity would be well advised to travel either well inside or well outside the netted area. The nets are constructed of very heavy netting and may reach from the bottom to near the surface in some cases. If your gear becomes entangled in the net, you are urged to cut it off and contact the fishers to recover it. Should your boat become entangled in the net, please call or radio the Coast Guard immediately.

For additional information regarding trap nets pick up a copy of the brochure "Don't Get Trapped" at the Ludington Chamber Office, or visit the web site: Michigan Sea Grant/net or call: 616/458-6805.

Please continue to visit the Ludington Charter Boat Association website often for updates and additional information.

<http://www.ludingtonsalmon.com>

Typical Net view with staff and flag markings:
Note: Actual marking may vary from this standard view.



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