



ENHANCE ★ PROTECT ★ CONSERVE

Shrimping THE SOUND

SPRING 2016

A newsletter of the
Mississippi Department of Marine Resources' Shrimp and Crab Bureau



THE gulf

Cover Artist: Grace Bennett, 16, Long Beach, MS



MDMR Begins Sampling for the Annual Opening of Brown Shrimp Season

The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MDMR) Shrimp and Crab Bureau, along with the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory's (GCRL) Center for Fisheries Development, recently began extensive sampling for Brown Shrimp in the Mississippi Sound. The sampling is necessary for MDMR's fisheries scientists to determine the exact date for the opening of the 2016 shrimp season. GCRL pulls plankton tows in the Back Bay looking for Brown Shrimp post larvae, which is the stage of the shrimp's life cycle when it is extremely small (less than 25 mm or 0.98 inches), while MDMR staff pulls trawls Coastwide to find juvenile (26-40 mm or 1.02-1.57 inches) and adult Brown Shrimp (less than 41mm or 1.61 inches). In order for a shrimp to be of legal size (68 count per pound), it must be approximately 100 mm or 3.94 inches long. The Brown Shrimp season's opening date can be determined when the majority of the shrimp are of that legal size. Environmental factors such as salinity, water temperature, rainfall and moon phase are also considered when setting the opening of the season. It has been found that the optimum growing conditions for Brown Shrimp occur when the salinities are above 10 parts per thousand (ppt) and water temperatures are greater than 68 degrees Fahrenheit (°F).

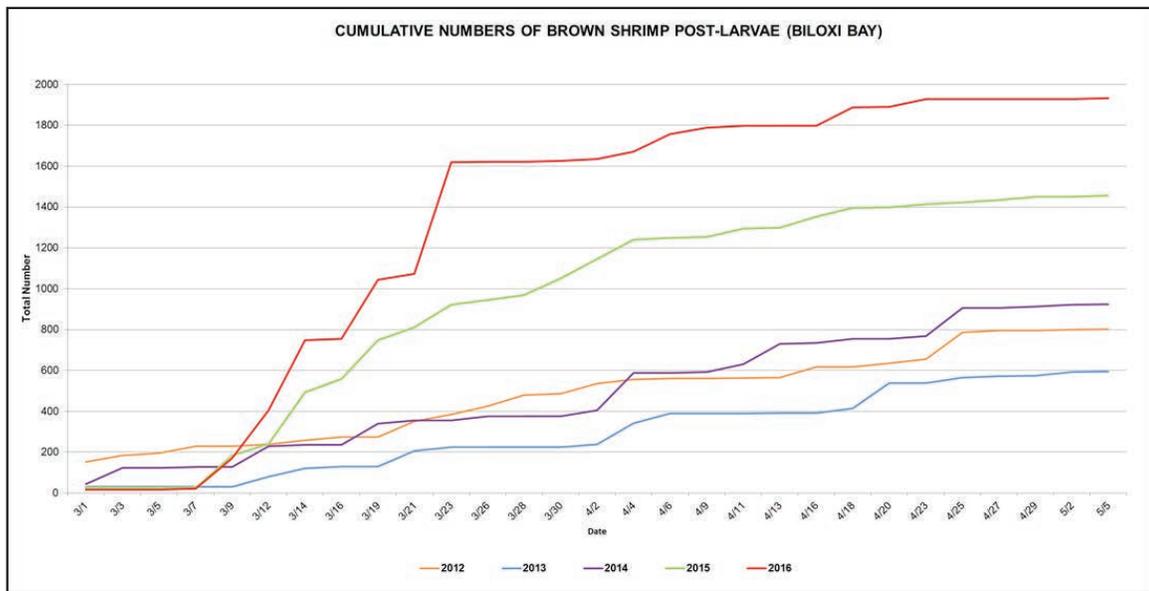


Figure 1 Comparison of Brown Shrimp Post Larvae (2011-2016)

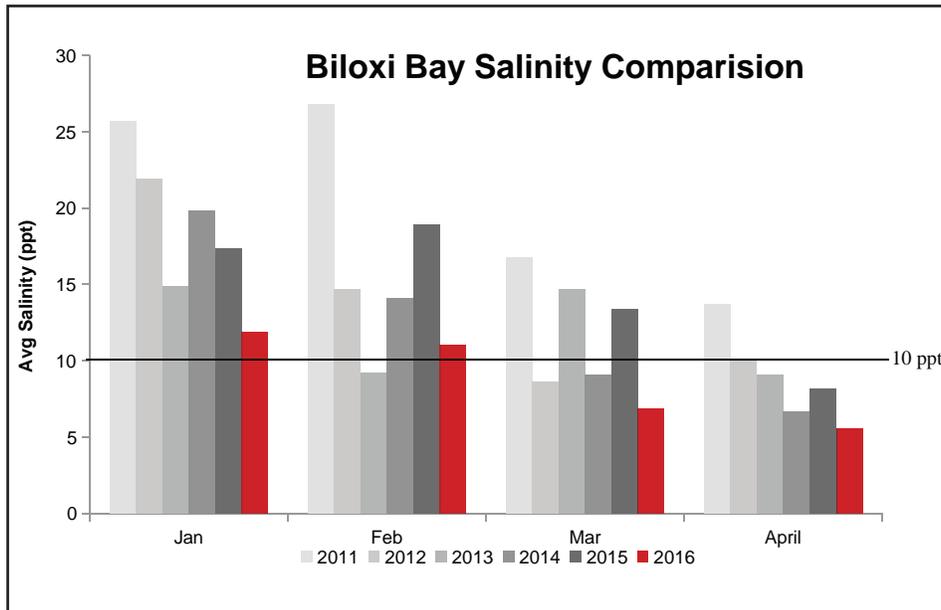


Figure 2 Biloxi Bay Salinity (January-April)

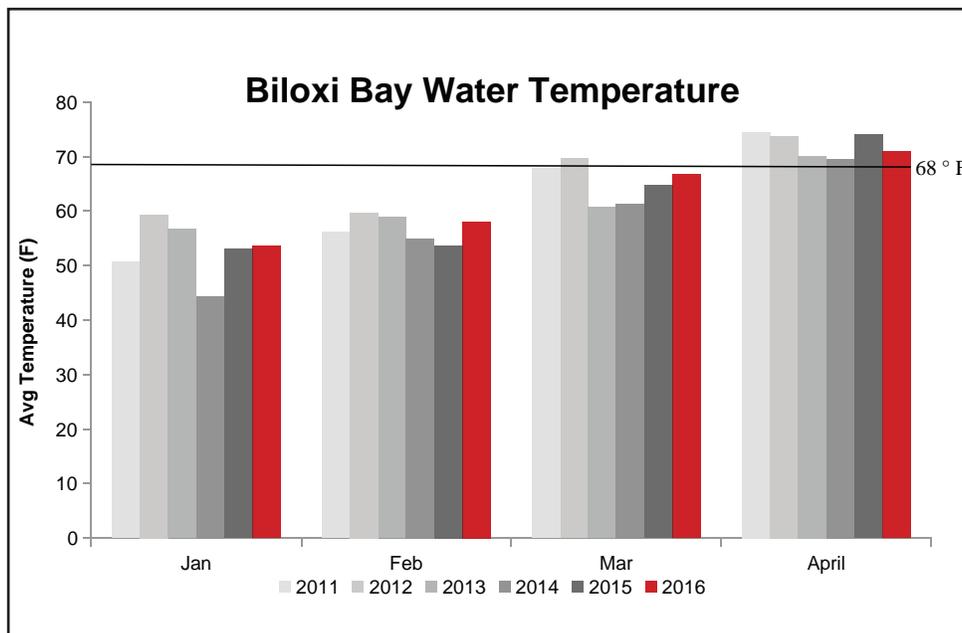


Figure 3 Biloxi Bay Water Temperature (January-April)

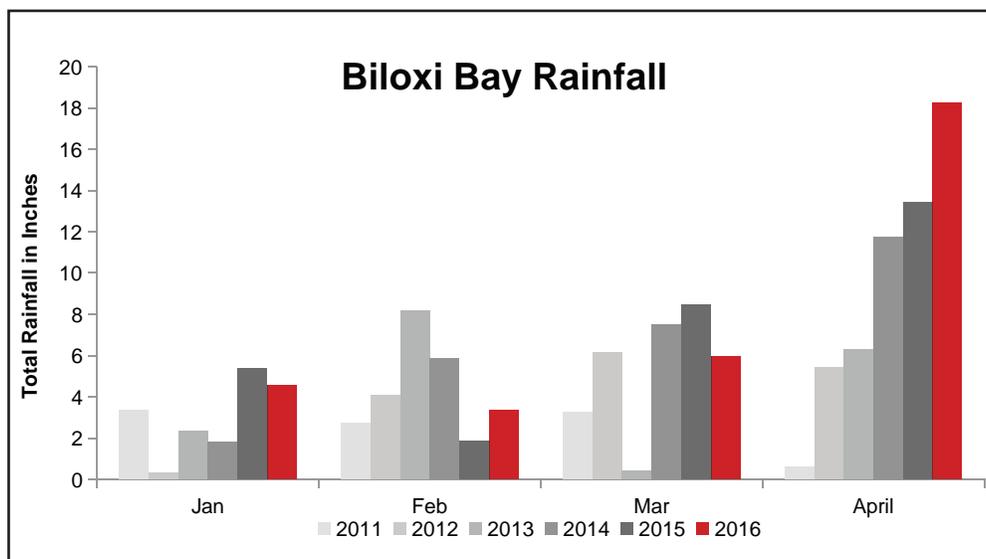


Figure 4 Monthly Rainfalls for Biloxi Bay (January-April)

WANTED

Tiger Shrimp (*Penaeus monodon*)



Photo above of Captain Benjamin Lopez, F/V Lady Monica, by Tony Reisinger.



Photos above courtesy Laurence Evans, © Ecotao Enterprises

Look for their distinct dark and light stripes.
Smaller juveniles are also wanted.
They may occur in the bays and near the shore.
If you catch any tiger shrimp in your nets, please:

1. Write down the trawl information
 - Captain's Name and/or Vessel Name
 - Date and Time
 - Location (Latitude/Longitude)
 - Water Depth
2. Put each shrimp (with head on) in a separate Ziploc® bag with the trawl information and freeze it
3. Contact Mississippi Department of Marine Resources to arrange for pick-up:

Phone: 228-374-5000

Email: report.invasive@dmr.ms.gov



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Commercial Fishermen

Fresh Product Permit Required	No Permit Required	Dealers License Required
Sell your catch off your boat	Sell your catch to a Mississippi licensed seafood dealer	Buy and resell another fisherman's catch
Sell your catch to restaurants or individuals	Sell your catch to a Mississippi licensed seafood processor	Transport your catch or another fisherman's catch out of state
Sell your catch from a roadside stand	Not selling your catch	New dealers contact Seafood Technology for safe seafood handling guidelines 228-374-5000

Trip Tickets – Monthly Submission Forms Required

A Fresh Product Permit is required if you sell your catch to anyone other than a licensed seafood dealer or processor. This is a reminder that while in possession of a Fresh Product Permit you must submit a Monthly Submission Form by the 10th of the following month indicating the number of trips taken even if that number is zero. If you sell your catch to anyone other than a licensed seafood dealer or processor you must fill out a trip ticket for each trip and send it in with your Monthly Submission Form. The important landing information you submit is strictly confidential and can only be viewed by you and employees of the MDMR designated as information confidentiality port reporters.

Title 22 Part 09 Chapter 06 Section 100 Seafood Reporting Requirements

All trip tickets shall be returned to the MDMR or electronically submitted on or before the 10th of each month for actual transactions from every commercial fisherman during the preceding month. A monthly summary form that states the total trips taken in a given month shall be submitted by the 10th of each month by the seafood dealer/processor or commercial fisherman.

Title 22 Part 09 Chapter 13 Section 100 Penalties

Any unlawful act under this Part committed by any person, firm, or corporation shall be deemed a violation of the provisions of this Part and shall constitute a misdemeanor and upon conviction, said person shall be punished in accordance with Mississippi Code Ann. § 49-15-63, as amended, unless a penalty is specifically provided elsewhere in the Mississippi Code Ann. of 1972, as amended.

If you have any questions please contact the Trip Ticket Office at 228-374-5000

SHRIMP (Trip Ticket Instructions)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. FISHERMAN'S NAME: Name on the commercial license 2. FISHERMAN'S LICENSE:
License number, Must be a current Type 51, 52 or 53 3. DATE LEFT DOCK: Date when trip started 4. VESSEL STATE REGISTRATION OR COAST GUARD NUMBER:
Doc – Reg No. as listed on commercial fishing license 5. PRIMARY AREA FISHED CODES:
MS Sound – 113
AL State Waters North of Dauphin Isl. – 112
Federal Waters South of MS and AL – 119
Breton, Chandeleur Sound and Marsh – 122
Lake Borgne – 121 6. PRIMARY GEAR USED CODES:
Regular Trawl – 095
Skimmer Trawl – 116
Chopsticks – 082 7. FISHING TIME: Number of Hours the net was in the water during the trip 8. QUANTITY OF GEAR: Number of trawls used on trip 9. SEAFOOD DEALER OR FRESH PRODUCT PERMITTEE'S NAME:
Name of your business 10. TRANSACTION DATE: Date you purchased the seafood 11. COUNTY LANDED CODES: (County where boat unloaded)
Jackson – 059
Harrison – 047
Hancock – 045 12. DEALER'S LLC. or FRESH PRODUCT PERMIT No.:
Dealers license number, Must be a current Type 16 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. SPECIES CODES:
Brown Shrimp – 7310
White Shrimp – 7340
Pink Shrimp – 7320
Seabob – 7338
Asian Tiger Shrimp – 7382 14. QUANTITY: Weight of shrimp purchased in pounds 15. UNIT CODES: Pounds – LB 16. CONDITION CODES:
Head On – 60
Head Off – 61 17. COUNT OR MARKET:
Number of Shrimp Per Pound (Examples) –
U-15, 16-20, 21-25, 26-30, 31-35, 36-40, 41-50, 51-60, 61-70, 71-80
Shrimp Sold as Bait – BT 18. PRICE PER UNIT:
How much you paid the fisherman for each pound of shrimp |
|--|--|

When Filling Out All Trip Tickets Reporting Reminders

- You must send in a monthly submission form at the end of every month, even if you did not buy any seafood from fishermen.
- Do not write messages in the squares. You may write notes in the white area or on a separate paper.
- It is important that you write legibly and stay within the outlined boxes.
- Do not use dashes, commas or periods.
- Use only one number per block.
- If a mistake is made liquid paper may be used or use a new trip ticket.
- Use only black ball point pen.

EXAMPLE



**TRIP TICKET
MONTHLY SUBMISSION FORM**
Mississippi Department of Marine Resources
Trip Ticket Coordinator
1141 Bayview Avenue
Biloxi, MS 39530
(228) 374-5000 or (800) 374-3449

This report must be submitted monthly in order to comply with the requirements of MS Title 22 Part 9 and rules and regulations adopted pursuant to those statutes. Completed trip tickets for the time period should accompany this form. DO NOT STAPLE TRIP TICKETS.

USE BLUE OR BLACK INK ONLY

Fresh Product or Dealer License Number

License No.

1	0	0	0	3	2	1
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Current Date:

0	6	/	0	4	/	1	5
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Reporting Period

From:

0	5	/	0	1	/	1	5
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

No of tickets

0				
---	--	--	--	--

To:

0	5	/	3	1	/	1	5
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

By signing this document I hereby certify the following:

the attached trip tickets represent all transactions of fish and shellfish obtained from anyone other than a licensed dealer for the reporting period described above.

all records (receipts) submitted in this report constitute all transactions required to be reported by law.

all the attached information is accurate and accounts for all actual business transactions required to be submitted in this report.

I understand that providing false information may result in criminal consequences.

PRINT
Dealer/Processor or
Fisherman Name:

John Doe

SIGNATURE
Licensed
Dealer/Processor or
Fisherman:

John Doe

Federal TED Regulations

Sea Turtle Handling and Resuscitation Requirements

50 CFR 223.206 (d)(1) Handling and Resuscitation Requirements

(i) Any specimen taken incidentally during the course of fishing or scientific research activities must be handled with due care to prevent injury to live specimens, observed for activity, and returned to the water according to the following procedures:

- (A) Sea turtles that are actively moving or determined to be dead as described in paragraph (d)(1)(i)(C) of this section must be released over the stern of the boat. In addition, they must be released only when fishing or scientific collection gear is not in use, when the engine gears are in neutral position, and in areas where they are unlikely to be recaptured or injured by vessels.
- (B) Resuscitation must be attempted on sea turtles that are comatose, or inactive, as determined in paragraph (d)(1) of this section, by:
 - (1) Placing the turtle on its bottom shell (plastron) so that the turtle is right side up and elevating its hindquarters at least 6 inches (15.2 cm) for a period of 4 up to 24 hours. The amount of the elevation depends on the size of the turtle; greater elevations are needed for larger turtles. Periodically, rock the turtle gently left to right and right to left by holding the outer edge of the shell (carapace) and lifting one side about 3 inches (7.6 cm) then alternate to the other side. Gently touch the eye and pinch the tail (reflex test) periodically to see if there is a response.
 - (2) Sea turtles being resuscitated must be shaded and kept damp or moist but under no circumstance be placed into a container holding water. A water-soaked towel placed over the head, carapace, and flippers is the most effective method in keeping a turtle moist.
 - (3) Sea turtles that revive and become active must be released over the stern of the boat only when fishing or scientific collection gear is not in use, when the engine gears are in neutral position, and in areas where they are unlikely to be recaptured or injured by vessels. Sea turtles that fail to respond to the reflex test or fail to move within 4 hours (up to 24, if possible) must be returned to the water in the same manner as that for actively moving turtles.
- (C) A turtle is determined to be dead if the muscles are stiff (rigor mortis) and/or the flesh has begun to rot; otherwise the turtle is determined to be comatose or inactive and resuscitation attempts are necessary.

(ii) In addition to the provisions of paragraph (d)(1)(i) of this section, a person aboard a vessel in the Atlantic, including the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico, that has pelagic or bottom longline gear on board and that has been issued, or is required to have, a limited access permit for highly migratory species under §635.4 of this title, must comply with the handling and release requirements specified in §635.21 of this title.

(iii) Any specimen taken incidentally during the course of fishing or scientific research activities must not be consumed, sold, landed, offloaded, transshipped, or kept below deck.

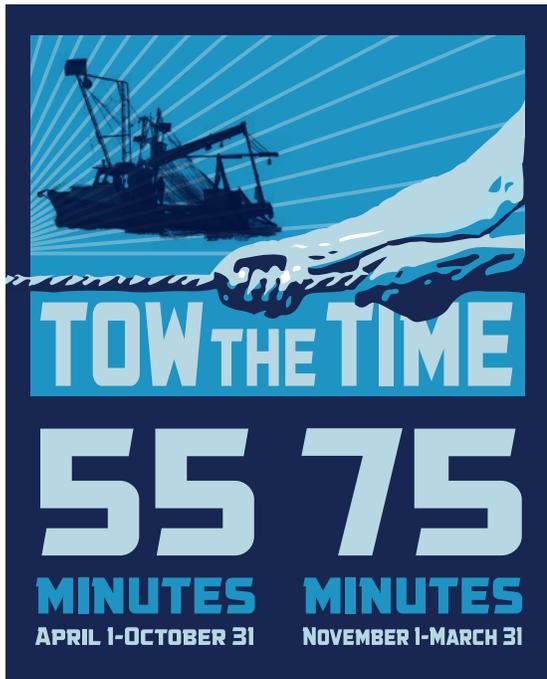
Federal TED Exemptions

50 CFR 223.206 (d)(2) Gear Requirements for Trawlers

(i) *TED requirement for shrimp trawlers.* Any shrimp trawler that is in the Atlantic Area or Gulf Area must have an approved TED installed in each net that is rigged for fishing. A net is rigged for fishing if it is in the water, or if it is shackled, tied, or otherwise connected to any trawl door or board, or to any tow rope, cable, pole or extension, either on board or attached in any manner to the shrimp trawler. Exceptions to the TED requirement for shrimp trawlers are provided in paragraph (d)(2)(ii) of this section.

(ii) *Exemptions from the TED requirement*

- (A) Alternative tow-time restrictions. A shrimp trawler is exempt from the TED requirements of paragraph (d)(2)(i) of this section if it complies with the alternative tow-time restrictions in paragraph (d)(3)(i) of this section and if it:
 - (1) Has on board no power or mechanical-advantage trawl retrieval system (i.e., any device used to haul any part of the net aboard);
 - (2) Is a bait shrimper that retains all live shrimp on board with a circulating seawater system, if it does not possess more than 32 lb. (14.5 kg) of dead shrimp on board, if it has a valid original state bait-shrimp license, and if the state license allows the licensed vessel to participate in the bait shrimp fishery exclusively;
 - (3) Has only a pusher-head trawl, skimmer trawl, or wing net rigged for fishing;
 - (4) Is in an area during a period for which tow-time restrictions apply under paragraphs (d)(3)(ii) or (iii) of this section, if it complies with all applicable provisions imposed under those paragraphs; or
 - (5) Is using a single test net (try net) with a headrope length of 12 ft (3.6 m) or less and with a footrope length of 15 ft (4.6 m) or less, if it is pulled immediately in front of another net or is not connected to another net in any way, if no more than one test net is used at a time, and if it is not towed as a primary net, in which case the exemption under this paragraph (d)(2)(ii)(A) applies to the test net.
- (B) Exempted gear or activities. The following fishing gear or activities are exempted from the TED requirements of paragraph (d)(2)(i) of this section:



- (1) A beam or roller trawl, if the frame is outfitted with rigid vertical bars, and if none of the spaces between the bars, or between the bars and the frame, exceeds 4 inches (10.2 cm); and
- (2) A shrimp trawler fishing for, or possessing, royal red shrimp, if royal red shrimp constitutes at least 90 percent (by weight) of all shrimp either found on board, or offloaded from that shrimp trawler.

Reminder: NOAA Tow Time Restrictions for Skimmer Trawls

50 CFR 223.206 (d)(3) Tow-Time Restrictions

(i) *Duration of Tows.* If tow-time restrictions are utilized pursuant to paragraph (d) (2)(ii), (d)(3)(ii), or (d)(3)(iii) of this section, a shrimp trawler must limit tow times. The tow time is measured from the time that the trawl door enters the water until it is removed from the water. For a trawl that is not attached to a door, the tow time is measured from the time the codend enters the water until it is removed from the water. Tow times may not exceed:

- (A) 55 minutes from April 1 through October 31; and
- (B) 75 minutes from November 1 through March 31.

(ii) *Alternative—special environmental conditions.* The Assistant Administrator may allow compliance with tow-time restrictions, as an alternative to the TED requirement

of paragraph (d)(2)(i) of this section, if the Assistant Administrator determines that the presence of algae, seaweed, debris or other special environmental conditions in a particular area makes trawling with TED-equipped nets impracticable.

(iii) *Substitute—ineffectiveness of TEDs.* The Assistant Administrator may require compliance with tow-time restrictions, as a substitute for the TED requirement of paragraph (d)(2)(i) of this section, if the Assistant Administrator determines that TEDs are ineffective in protecting sea turtles.

(iv) *Notice; applicability; conditions.* The Assistant Administrator will publish notification concerning any tow-time restriction imposed under paragraph (d)(3)(ii) or (iii) of this section in the FEDERAL REGISTER and will announce it in summary form on channel 16 of the marine VHF radio. A notification of tow-time restrictions will include findings in support of these restrictions as an alternative to, or as substitute for, the TED requirements. The notification will specify the effective dates, the geographic area where tow-time restrictions apply, and any applicable conditions or restrictions that the Assistant Administrator determines are necessary or appropriate to protect sea turtles and ensure compliance, including, but not limited to, a requirement to carry observers, to register vessels in accordance with procedures at paragraph (d) (5) of this section, or for all shrimp trawlers in the area to synchronize their tow times so that all trawl gear remains out of the water during certain times. A notification withdrawing tow-time restrictions will include findings in support of that action.

(v) *Procedures.* The Assistant Administrator will consult with the appropriate fishery officials (state or Federal) where the affected shrimp fishery is located in issuing a notification concerning tow-time restrictions. An emergency notification can be effective for a period of up to 30 days and may be renewed for additional periods of up to 30 days each if the Assistant Administrator finds that the conditions necessitating the imposition of tow-time restrictions continue to exist. The Assistant Administrator may invite comments on such an action, and may withdraw or modify the action by following procedures similar to those for implementation. The Assistant Administrator will implement any permanent tow-time restriction through rulemaking.

NOAA Fisheries accepting applications for industry-related loans

March 30, 2016, 4:27 pm

Undercurrent News

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries is accepting applications from commercial fishermen, as well as those in the aquaculture industry, looking to receive a share of NOAA's \$100 million in lending authority designated for 2016, reports the *Gloucester Times*.

The loans run from five to 25 years and have a market-competitive interest rate.

NOAA is accepting application from those working in aquaculture, mariculture, shoreside fisheries facilities and commercial fishermen.

Potential uses for the funds among applicants from aquaculture, mariculture and shoreside fisheries facilities include purchasing an existing facility, improvements to an existing facility, new construction and reconstruction.

For commercial fishermen (excluding charter operators), the potential uses for the money include purchasing a new vessel, acquisition of vessel equipment and reconstruction with no increase in harvesting capacity.

The uses also include upgrades to improve collection and reporting of fisheries data, methods to reduce bycatch and adverse impacts of fishing gear, as well as ways to improve safety.

<https://www.google.com/url?rct=j&sa=t&url=https://www.undercurrentnews.com/2016/03/30/noaa-fisheries-accepting-applications-for-industry-related-loans/&ct=ga&cd=CAEYACoTODQ5MTgwMDY1NzQ3NjMyNzE1NDIaNGM3MjMwODI1NGM0ODUxZDpj206ZW46VVM&usg=AFQjCNH48TnmW-NPpctuCcmiKDwLmlmAIg>>

TED Enforcement Boarding Form*

*Please note: The following form was developed for law enforcement as a means of capturing the most frequent TED violations and is not a comprehensive guide to the TED regulations. There are still ways to violate the regulations not specifically listed on the form. The form is shared with shrimpers as a courtesy; however fishermen need to follow all of the regulations - not just the boarding form. For full TED regulations contact your local NOAA office at (228) 762-4591.

NMFS Ver. 1.6

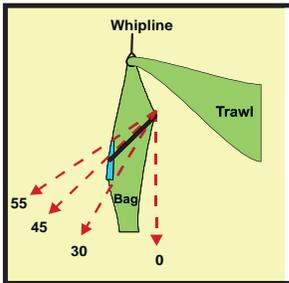
TED Enforcement Boarding Form



Date / Time			
Vessel Name			
Doc Number/ Reg.			
COLREGS Line	Inshore	Offshore	
Lat. / Dockside			N.
Long. / Port			W.

Federal Agency	NOAA OLE	GMT	USCG
State Agency			
Inspector			
Officer/ Witness			

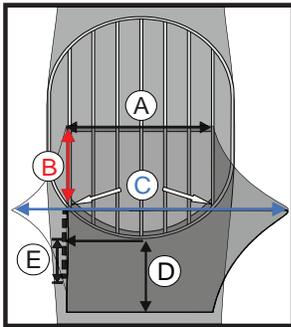
How to find angle



Grid Measurements

Grid Measurements	Port 1	Port 2	Stbd 1	Stbd 2
Angle (55° max)				
Bar Spacing (4" max)				
Grid length and width (32" min)				
Top shooter (TS) or bottom shooter (BS)				
SFSTCA Compliant (see 50 CFR 223.207 (a)(3)(iii))	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N
Do all bottom shooters have proper flotation? (If NO Explain in Comment section)	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N

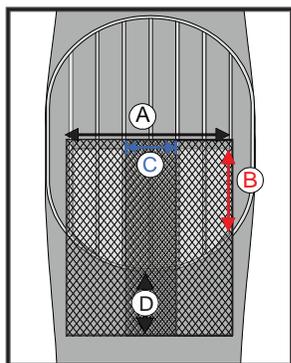
Single cover (71") TED



Opening and Flap Measurements (all stretched except D)

Opening and Flap Measurements (all stretched except D)	Port 1	Port 2	Stbd 1	Stbd 2
Identify each TED as an Inshore, 71" or DC				
A Leading Edge of 71" must be $\geq 71"$.				
A Leading Edge DC must be $\geq 56"$.				
B Forward Cut of 71" must be $\geq 26"$.				
B Forward Cut of DC must be $\geq 20"$.				
C The 71" opening must be $\geq 71"$ of stretched flap between the 2 points where flap is sewn to grid				
C The DC overlap must be $\leq 15"$.				
D Length of flap not stretched below grid $\leq 24"$.				
E The 71"/44" flap can be sewn down the side no more than 6" from bottom of grid.				
F Inshore TED must be $\geq 44"$ wide with a vertical measurement $\geq 20"$ from the grid.				

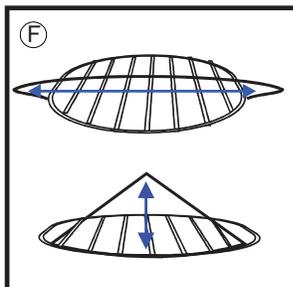
Double Cover (DC) TED



Allowable Modifications

Accelerator Funnel must stretch $\geq 71"$ on the 71"/ DC or $\geq 44"$ for 44" opening.				
Chafing gear for 71"/44" is the proper size, sewn along Leading Edge only. Not allowed on DC				

Inshore (44") TED



Comments:				
Captain's Name (print)		Signature		

REWARD



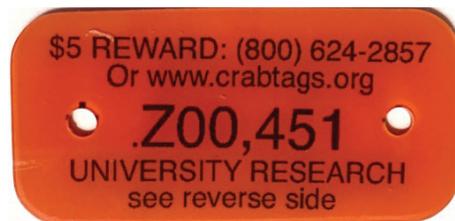
TAGGED BLUE CRABS

If caught, please report:

1-800-624-2857 or **www.crabtags.org**

with the following information:

- Tag number**
- Capture date**
- Capture location (GPS if possible)**
- Egg mass/sponge color (if present)**



Researchers at Nicholls State University in Thibodaux, LA are working to better understand blue crab migrations to help ensure the continued sustainability of the blue crab fishery. We are tagging mature female blue crabs across the Gulf Coast to track migration patterns. Crabs are being tagged both inshore (bays and estuaries) and offshore in all 5 Gulf states. We need your help. If you catch a tagged crab, please report it. **There is a \$5-50 reward for every reported tag. An extra reward is possible if the crab is frozen with tag attached and returned to us- we will come to you and pick it up. Extra rewards are available only for the first 500 crabs returned to us.**



Nicholls State University

2016 Marine Mammal Authorization Certificate

The shrimp fishery has been reclassified from a Category III to a Category II fishery under the Marine Mammal Protection Act by NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service. This means all commercial shrimp vessels must be registered and have an authorization certificate on-board. Commercial shrimpers with valid federal permits are automatically registered for the program. Commercial fishermen who believe they should be registered but have not been, or who want to verify they are registered in the NMFS Southeast Region should contact the [NMFS SERO MMAP Hotline](http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/protected_resources/marine_mammal_authorization_program/) at 727-209-5952. For convenience, a copy of the certificate follows this article.

More information can be found through this link:

http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/protected_resources/marine_mammal_authorization_program/

NOAA's NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE (NMFS) 2016 MARINE MAMMAL AUTHORIZATION CERTIFICATE

Authorization:

Pursuant to Section 118 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) (16 U.S.C. 1387), the implementing regulations at 50 CFR Part 229, and subject to the terms and conditions below, NMFS issues this Authorization Certificate, which, when presented in combination with a current and valid federal fishing permit, authorizes the taking of non-endangered marine mammals incidental to commercial fishing in Category I or II fisheries.

Terms and Conditions:

- All incidental mortality or injury of marine mammals occurring in the course of commercial fishing operations must be reported to NMFS within 48 hours after the end of each fishing trip in which the incidental mortality or injury occurred.
- This Authorization Certificate, or a photocopy, must be on board the vessel during commercial fishing operations.
- Authorization Certificate holders must comply with any applicable take reduction plans and emergency regulations.
- If requested to do so by NMFS or a designated contractor providing observer services to NMFS, an Authorization Certificate holder must take aboard an observer to accompany the vessel on fishing trips.
- When necessary to deter a marine mammal from damaging fishing gear, catch, other private property, or from endangering personal safety, the vessel owner, operator, or crew members may use measures which do not result in serious injury or mortality of the animal, as required by the deterrence provisions of the MMPA.
- A marine mammal may not be intentionally killed in the course of commercial fishing operations except where imminently necessary in self-defense or to protect the life of a person in immediate danger. Such lethal taking must be reported to NMFS within 48 hours. Any marine mammal incidentally taken must be immediately returned to the sea unless NMFS directs otherwise.
- This Authorization Certificate, or copy, must be made available upon request to any state or federal enforcement agent authorized to enforce the MMPA, any designated agent of NMFS, or any contractor providing observer services to NMFS.
- This certificate is not transferable. In the event of a change in vessel ownership, the Authorization Certificate is void and a new Authorization Certificate must be obtained by the new owner.
- If the registered vessel is sold or destroyed or is replaced by a new designated vessel, an authorization must be obtained for the new vessel.
- Any person who violates these Terms and Conditions, regulations under 50 CFR Part 229, or any provisions of Section 118 of the MMPA shall be subject to the penalties set forth in the MMPA.
- If there are changes in your mailing address or vessel ownership, notify the NMFS Southeast Region Protected Resources Division at 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL, 33701, (727) 209-5952, within 30 days.
- This certificate is valid from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016



Marine Safety Information Bulletin

Commandant
U.S. Coast Guard
Inspections and Compliance Directorate
2703 Martin Luther King Jr Ave SE, STOP 7501
Washington, DC 20593-7501

MSIB Number: 04-16
Date: February 18, 2016
Contact: CG-CVC-3
Phone: (202) 372-1249
E-Mail: jack.a.kemerer@uscg.mil

Clarification on Survival Craft Requirements for Uninspected Commercial Fishing Industry Vessels

On February 8, 2016, the President signed the *Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015* (H.R. Bill 4188) into law. In it, section 301 amended the out-of-water survival craft requirements in Title 46 United States Code (U.S.C.) §3104 by limiting its applicability to inspected vessels. The Coast Guard issued Marine Safety Information Bulletin (MSIB) # 02-16 on February 17, 2016 notifying the public of the changes made by the 2015 CGAA regarding survival craft and cancelling CVC Policy Letter 15-05, dated December 18, 2015.

Section 301 of the 2015 Coast Guard Authorization Act (CGAA) removed the language in 46 U.S.C. §3104 that prevented the Coast Guard from approving in-water survival craft (e.g., life floats and rigid buoyant apparatus) for all vessels that fall under Title 46 U.S.C. Part B, which includes uninspected commercial fishing vessels. Therefore, in-water survival craft approvals may resume and commercial fishing vessels may continue to use their existing in-water survival craft as specified in 46 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 28. However, the Coast Guard highly recommends that owners and operators transition to out-of-water survival craft for the safety of their personnel.

Also, please recognize that if you are currently required to carry an out-of-water survival craft on your commercial fishing vessel in accordance with statute or regulation (see 46 CFR Part 28), that requirement remains in effect. In other words, the current regulatory survival craft requirements for commercial fishing vessels are unchanged until amended or revised by future legislation or rulemaking.

Lastly, pursuant to 46 U.S.C. §4502(b)(2)(B), the Coast Guard is required to prescribe regulations requiring commercial fishing vessels that operate beyond 3 NM from the baseline to carry out-of-water survival craft in an aggregate capacity to accommodate the total number of individuals on board. A rulemaking project to implement 46 U.S.C. §4502(b)(2) is currently underway.

Questions concerning survival craft requirements on commercial fishing vessels may be directed to the Office of Commercial Vessel Compliance (CG-CVC), Fishing Vessels Division, at 202-372-1249, or by email as noted in the header. Questions concerning survival craft type approvals should be directed to the Office of Design and Engineering Standards, (CG-ENG) at TypeApproval@uscg.mil.

This release has been issued for public information and notification purposes only.

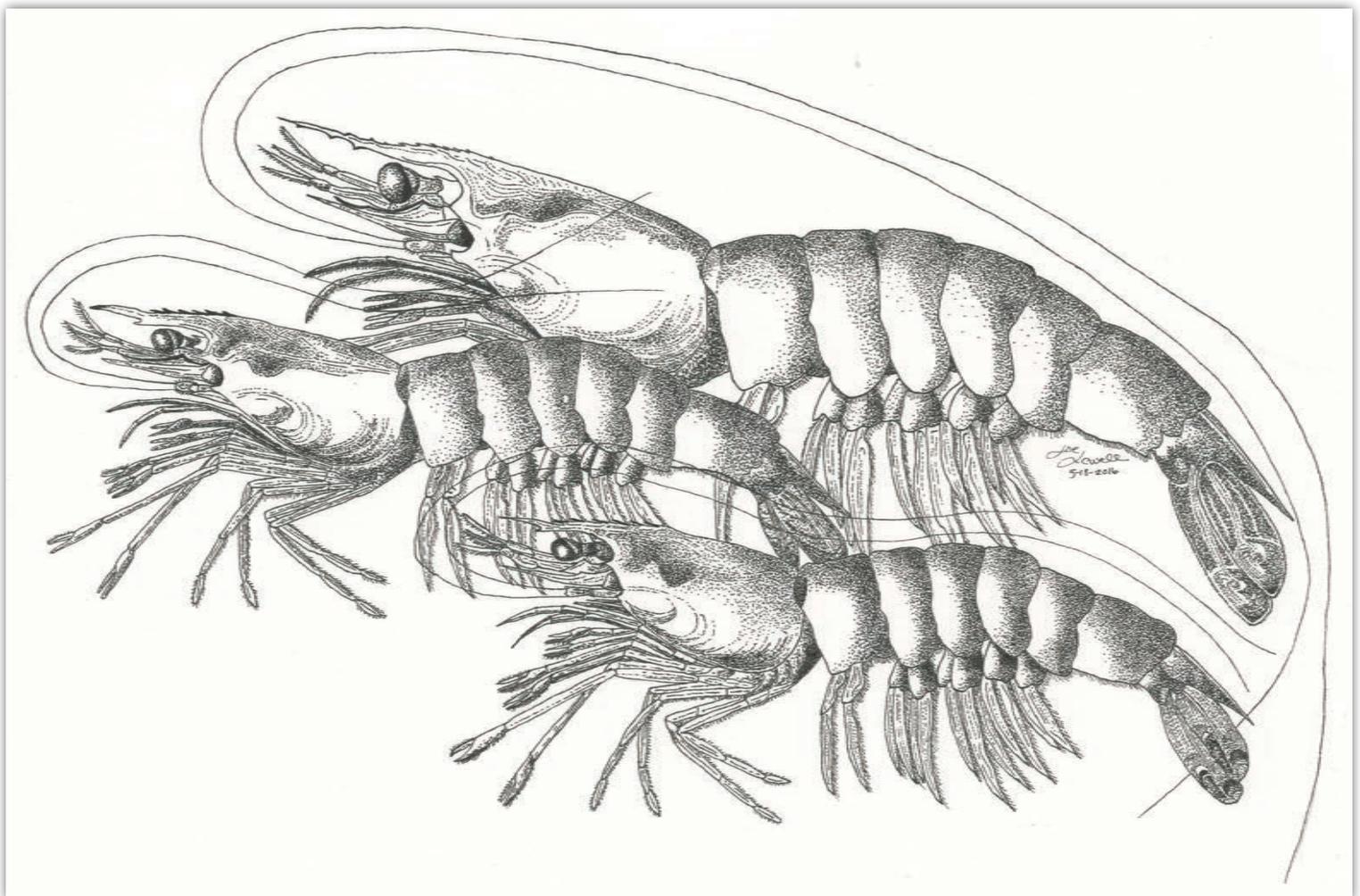
Gulf Coast Fishermen Newsletter

PUBLIC COMMENT SOUGHT ON PROPOSED EXTENSION OF THE GULF OF MEXICO COMMERCIAL SHRIMP PERMIT MORATORIUM

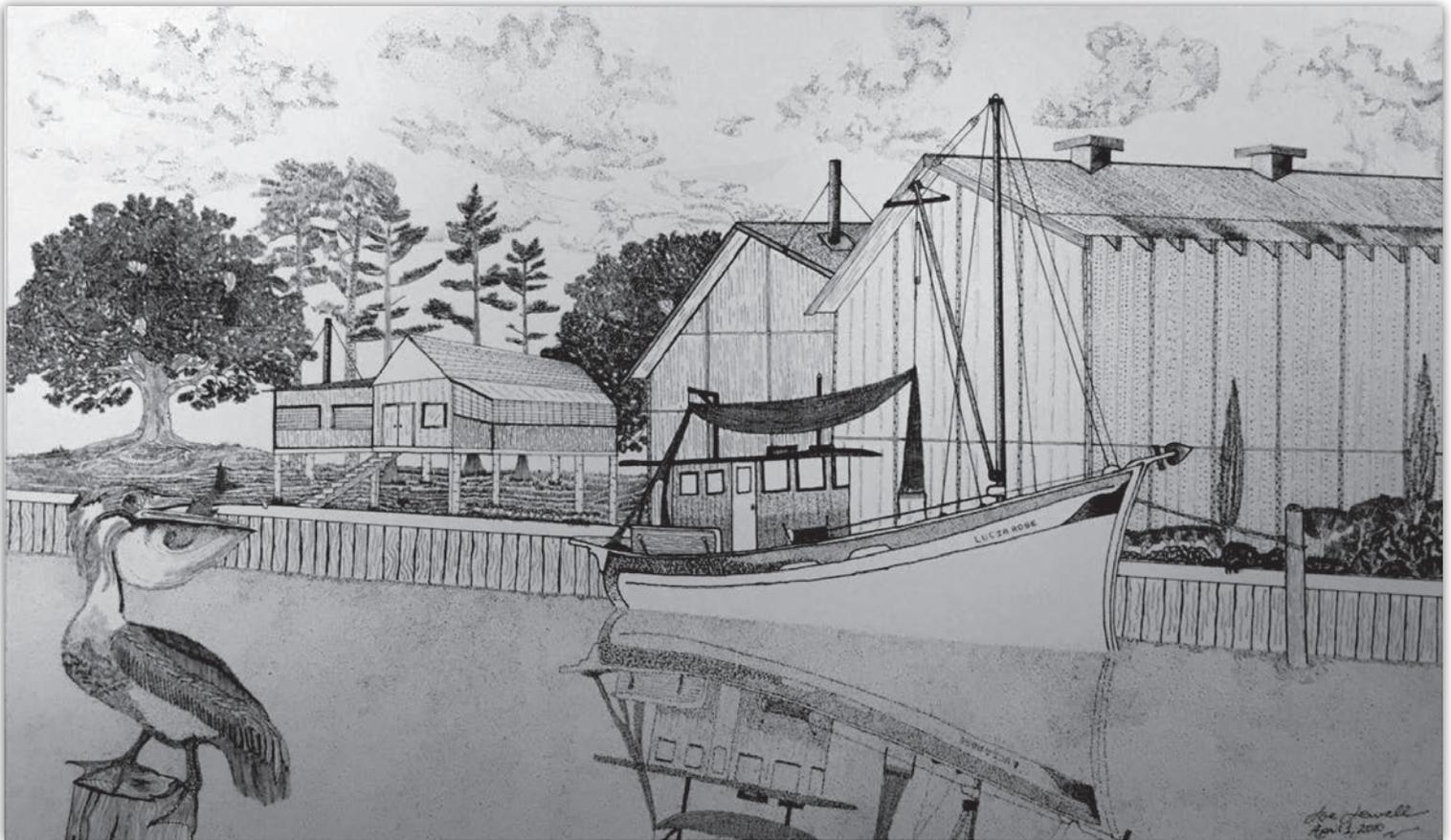
NOAA Fisheries is seeking public comment on Amendment 17A to the Fishery Management Plan for the Shrimp Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico. NOAA Fisheries is also seeking public comment on the proposed rule to implement management measures contained in the amendment. Amendment 17A proposes to extend the existing commercial shrimp permit moratorium for an additional 10 years, until October 26, 2026.

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council has submitted Amendment 17A to NOAA Fisheries for review, approval, and implementation. The Notice of Availability for public comment on this amendment published in the Federal Register on April 5, 2016, and the proposed rule published on April 14, 2016. Comments will be accepted through June 6, 2016. NOAA will address all comments specifically directed to either the amendment or the proposed rule in the final rule. For more information on Amendment 17A, visit the NOAA Fisheries Southeast Region Website at: http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/gulf_fisheries/shrimp/2016/am17a/index.html.

NOAA Fisheries must receive comments no later than June 6, 2016. You may submit comments on the amendment or the proposed rule, identified by “NOAA-NMFS-2016-0018”, by one of the following methods: Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. Go to <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=NOAA-NMFS-2016-0018>, click the “Comment Now!” icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments. Mail written comments to Susan Gerhart, Southeast Regional Office, NOAA Fisheries, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701.



By: Joe Jewell



By: Joe Jewell

BUSINESS PLANNING FOR FISHERMEN

A new online business planning tool is designed specifically for fishermen interested in better understanding the financial aspects of their fishing businesses. FishBizPlan is a business planning tool developed by a national group of extension experts and fishermen to help commercial fishermen around the nation analyze their businesses through writing a business plan. Embedded within FishBizPlan are several financial spreadsheets (include balance sheets, income statements, and cash flow statements), with categories and calculators created specifically for fishing operations. These can help provide an even deeper understanding of the financial workings of a fishing business. In addition, Alaska Sea Grant has created a website called FishBiz, which houses the items described above, as well as numerous other resources for commercial seafood harvesters. Business publications, podcasts, external links and other tools on this website support new entrants, mid-career fishermen and those planning to exit the commercial fishery. To get a better understanding of all the tool has to offer, visit fishbizplan.org and register to create your own free account.

The information on this page and the previous was compiled by Dave Burrage, Peter Nguyen and Benedict Posadas. For more information, visit our office at 1815 Popp's Ferry Road, Biloxi, MS 39532 or telephone (228) 388-4710.

Kindest Regards,

Dave Burrage
Extension Professor
MSU Coastal Research and Extension Center
Department: Coastal Plain Experiment Station

<http://extension.msstate.edu/newsletters/gulf-coast-fisherman-newsletter/2016/gulf-coast-fisherman>



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