

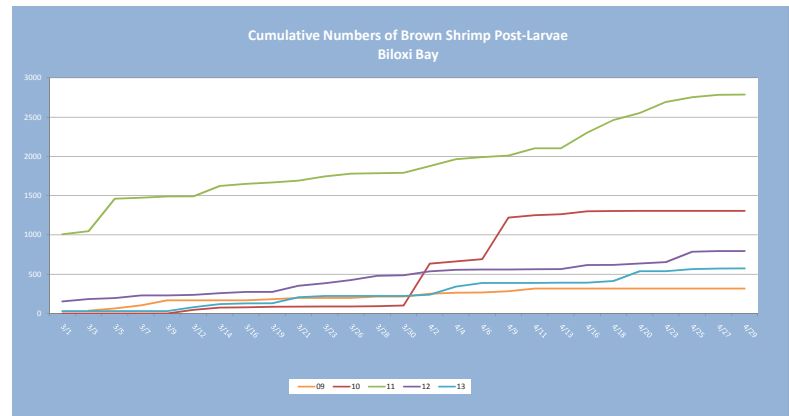
SHRIMPING *the Sound*



Spring 2013

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 2013 shrimp season. GCRL pulls plankton tows in the Biloxi 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), while MDMR staff pulls trawls coast wide to find juvenile (26-40 mm) and adult brown shrimp (greater than 41 mm). In order for a shrimp to be of legal size (68 count), it must be approximately 100 mm (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).



Comparison of Brown Shrimp Post Larvae (2009-2013)

Sampling, continued on page 2

MarketMaker offers free Web marketing to fishermen

Throughout 2012, seafood businesses in Mississippi have been taking advantage of Mississippi MarketMaker <<http://www.coastal.msstate.edu/MSMarketMaker.html>> and the free marketing service it provides. MarketMaker is a free, web-based marketing tool that links producers and consumers together to create larger markets for the producer and local food sources for the consumer.

Businesses can register within MarketMaker by building a business profile that advertises their products, operating hours, methods of payments, contact information and any other information they would like consumers and buyers to know. Having an online presence creates a competitive advantage over those who do not have an online presence.

The Mississippi State University Coastal Research and Extension Center MarketMaker team in Biloxi, MS has held several workshops to introduce MarketMaker to local seafood businesses. Not only does the MarketMaker team host workshops focusing on MarketMaker, but

they also teach businesses how to integrate Facebook, Twitter and other social media sites into their marketing plans. For more information on registering your business or using MarketMaker as a consumer please contact: Dr. Ben Posadas, benp@ext.msstate.edu, (228) 546-1024; Katy Buchanan, krb214@msstate.edu, (228) 546-1044; or Randy Coker, rcoker@ra.msstate.edu, (228) 762-7783

The following business sectors can register on MarketMaker:

1. Agritourism sector- Charter Boats for Hire
2. Eating and drinking places - seafood restaurants
3. Farmer
4. Farmers Market - local markets for seafood products
5. Fishery Sector – commercial fishermen
6. Food Banks
7. Food Retailer - seafood retailers
8. Processor - seafood processors
9. Wholesaler - seafood dealers
10. Wineries



Mississippi Inshore and Territorial Seas Shrimping Grounds

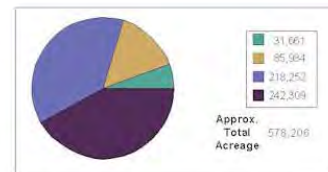


Based on U.S.G.S. 1:100,000
Digital Line Graph Data.

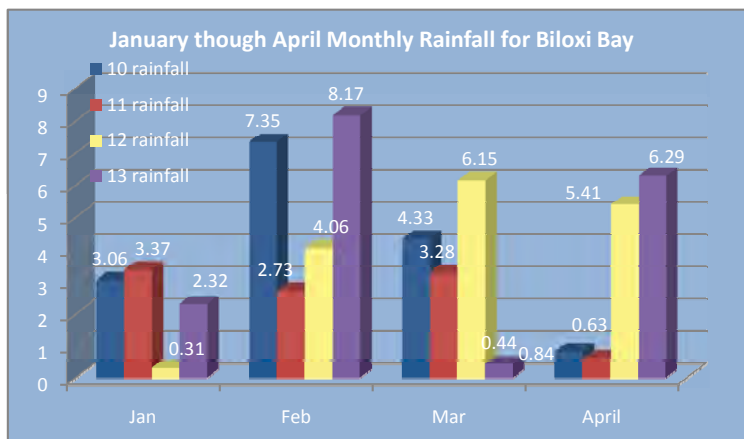
May 2001

- Closed to all shrimping, inland and within 1 mile of Gulf Islands National Seashore shoreline
- Open to live bait shrimping only, within 1/2 mile of the shoreline
- Open to commercial & recreational shrimping on a seasonal basis until December 31
- Open to commercial and recreational shrimping on a seasonal basis until April 30
- Exclusive Economic Zone and/or other state waters

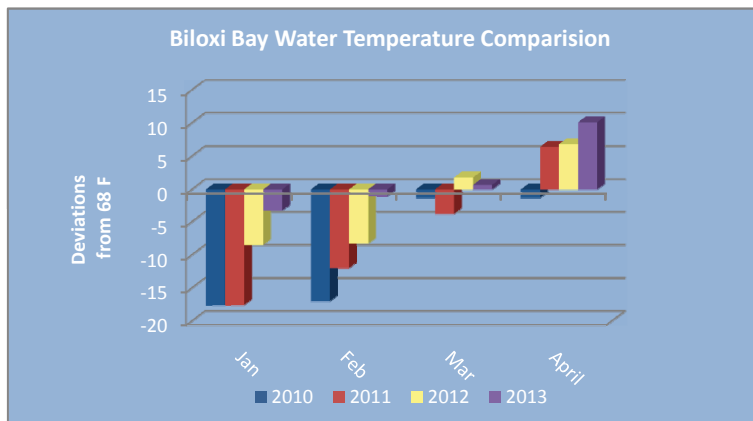
- Intracoastal Waterway
- Colregs Demarcation Line



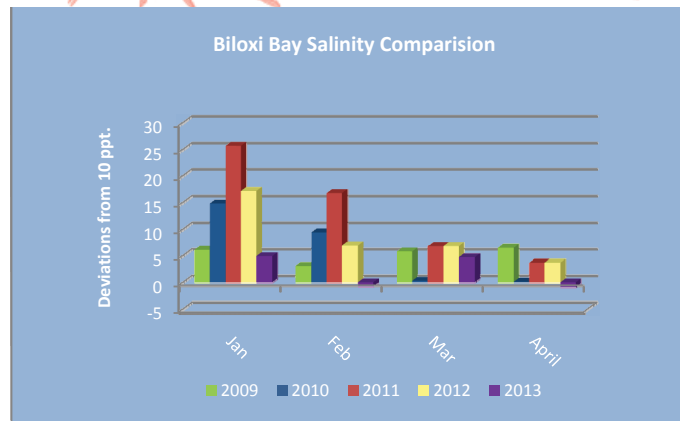
Sampling, continued from page 2



Monthly Rainfalls for Biloxi Bay (January-April)



Biloxi Bay Water Temperature (January-April)



Biloxi Bay Salinity (January-April)

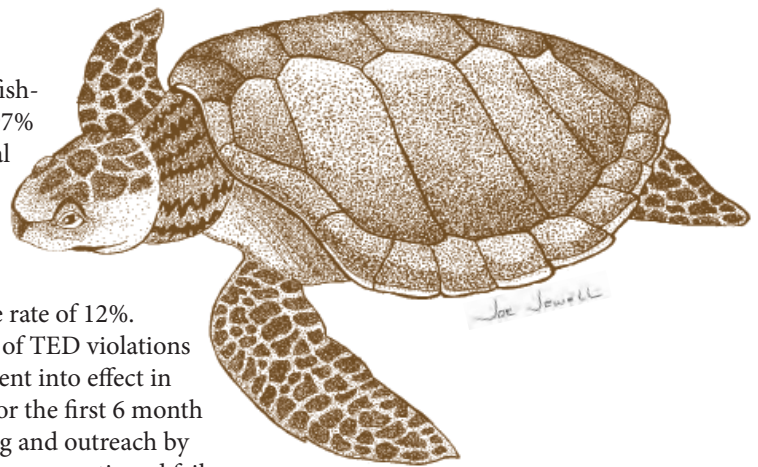
Important TED update:

In the past, sea turtle regulations assumed that the otter trawl shrimp fishery was in full compliance with TED requirements and that TEDs were 97% effective. TED non-compliance was previously only a matter of individual vessel responsibility. Today, both the individual vessel and the entire fleet are held to a strict sea turtle capture rate performance standard that is based on an evaluation of fleet-wide TED compliance. This new standard affects everyone in the fishery.

The new performance standard is a maximum fleet-wide turtle capture rate of 12%. Detailed data collected by NMFS Office of Law Enforcement on the type of TED violations is used to calculate the fleet-wide capture rate. Since this new standard went into effect in June 2012, the fleet has already exceeded the 12% capture rate standard for the first 6 month monitoring period. As required, this has resulted in enhanced monitoring and outreach by the agency in a cooperative effort to bring the fleet into compliance. However, continued failure of the fleet to meet this standard can lead to time-area closures and other harmful regulation of the fishery. This is in addition to any enforcement liability vessel owners and captains may incur as a direct result of TED violations. Here are some things all shrimpers can do to avoid further regulations:

- Know and comply with all of your TED regulations!
- Don't leave the dock unless you are sure your TEDs are in compliance.
- Review available TED compliance guidance.
- Attend TED training when available in your area.
- Ask the NOAA Fisheries Gear Monitoring Team (GMT) to inspect your TEDs and work with you to get them into compliance BEFORE you leave the dock-rather than wait for a law enforcement officer to board you and risk a violation. To make arrangements for a courtesy TED inspection or if you have any questions, just call the GMT at their Pascagoula, MS, office. Contact the GMT coordinator, Dale Stevens, by phone at 228-549-1773 or by email at robert.d.stevens@noaa.gov.
- Share this information with other shrimp otter trawl fishermen. Improper and illegal TEDs on any vessel can now affect you.
- Conduct regular TED tune-ups. TEDs must be regularly maintained like other fishing gear in order to benefit sea turtles, as well as maintain shrimp catch. The grid angle must be checked on a regular basis to assure the TED has maintained the proper angle.

This information was compiled by Dave Burrage, Mississippi State University Coastal Research Extension Center, 1815 Popp's Ferry Road, Biloxi, MS 39532 or telephone (228) 388-4710.



Federal Updates to Certified BRDs and Shrimp Fishing Efforts

On April 11, 2012 the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) approved a rule that certifies two new bycatch reduction devices (BRDs) Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic shrimp fisheries, as well as revise shrimp effort restrictions for vessels fishing in federal waters of the EEZ. According to the rule, the intended effect is to improve bycatch reduction efforts in the Gulf and South Atlantic shrimp fisheries, provide greater flexibility to the industry, reduce the potential adverse social and economic impacts to fishing communities of previous restrictions, and meet the requirements of National Standard 9 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) which requires, to the extent practicable, the minimization of bycatch and bycatch mortality.

The two new BRDs to be certified for use in the Gulf of Mexico shrimp fishery are the Cone Fish Deflector Composite Panel BRD and the Square Mesh Panel (SMP) Composite Panel BRD. Two previously provisionally certified BRDs, the Extended Funnel BRD and the Composite Panel BRD will be decertified beginning on May 25, 2012 for the Gulf fishery.

The rule also revises harvesting restrictions for shrimp vessels fishing in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico. Previously, beginning in 2008 the rate of shrimp trawl bycatch mortality of juvenile red snapper found in the 10-30 fathom range must be reduced by 74% based off the rates of mortality seen in the period from 2001-2003.

Fishing effort based on fishing days directly correlates to fishing mortality rates and accordingly reductions in fishing effort are based on a reduction in fishing days relative to the 2001-2003 numbers. In those years fishing days numbered 82,811 days. In the previous rule established in 2008 the number was reduced by 74% to 21,531 days. With the revised rule, requiring only a 67% reduction in bycatch mortality rates from the 2001-2003 period, the number of fishing days increases to a threshold of 27,328 days.

The following BRDs are certified for use in the Gulf EEZ:

- Jones-Davis
<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sf/pdfs/Mod%20Jones%20Davis%20Instructions.pdf>
- Modified Jones-Davis
<http://bayoulog.files.wordpress.com/2012/05/instructions-for-the-composite-with-cone.pdf>
- Cone Fish Deflector Composite Panel
<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sf/pdfs/Composite%20BRD%20Instructions.pdf>
- Square Mesh Panel (SMP) Composite Panel
<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sf/pdfs/Composite%20BRD%20Instructions.pdf>

For more information contact Steve Branstetter, steve.branstetter@noaa.gov or 727-824-5305

Legislation:
<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-04-11/html/2012-8730.htm>

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

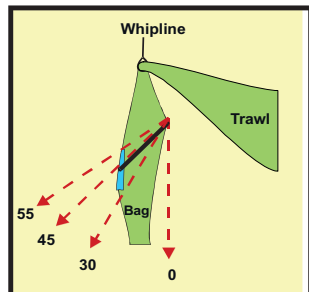
TED Enforcement Boarding Form



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			

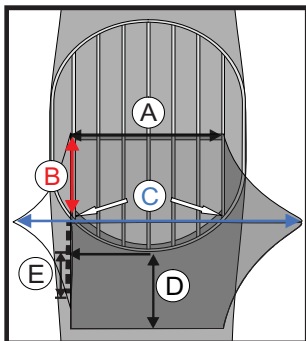
How to find angle



Grid Measurements

	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)(ii))	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

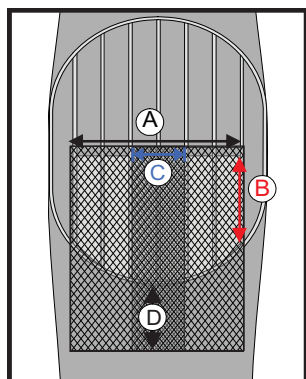
Single cover (71") TED



Opening and Flap Measurements (all stretched except D)

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.				

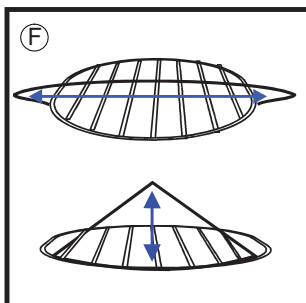
Double Cover (DC) TED



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



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

Bob Hoffman; Robert.Hoffman@noaa.gov
727-824-5312, FAX 727-824-5308

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

February 20, 2013
FB13-010

NOAA Fisheries Reminds Shrimp Fishermen of Tow Time Restrictions on Skimmer, Pusher-head, and Wing-Net Trawls in Lieu of TEDs

Fishermen using skimmer trawls, pusher-head trawls, and wing-net trawls are required under 50 CFR 223.206(d)(2)(ii)(A) to continue to use tow time limits instead of TEDs to help prevent incidental catch of turtles. Tow time restrictions limit tow times to 55 minutes from April 1 through October 31, and 75 minutes from November 1 through March 31. Per the TED requirements at 50 CFR 223.206(d)(3)(i), tow time is measured from the time the codend enters the water until it is removed from the water. It is important that each entire net be examined for potentially captured sea turtles, particularly given the small size of sea turtles typically caught inshore. Raising the net to the surface of the water to determine the size of the catch, without removing the codend from the water, does not serve to end the tow under the regulations. For example, if a net is towed 35 minutes, then raised to the surface of the water to determine the size of the catch, without removing the codend from the water, and then lowered back down and towed for an additional 25 minutes before the codend is removed from the water and dumped on deck, the tow time would be 60 minutes.

The purpose of these tow time restrictions is to allow inshore shrimp vessels the opportunity to fish in waters where endangered and threatened sea turtles live while still protecting the sea turtles that live there. NOAA Fisheries recently concluded that requiring all skimmer trawls, pusher-head trawls, and wing nets (butterfly trawls) to TEDs in their nets is not warranted at this time.

(http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/endangered%20species/Shrimp%20Fishery/Fisheries%20Bulletin_withdraw.pdf). Although NOAA Fisheries is continuing to work on other solutions, including modifications to existing legal TEDs, at this time, limiting the amount of time a net is pulled underwater is currently the only known way to reduce the impacts that these types of shrimp trawls have on all sea turtles. Most sea turtles can survive for up to an hour or more underwater. If skimmer trawl, pusher-head, and wing-net vessels regularly exceed the tow time restrictions and kill incidentally captured sea turtles, the fishery may be subject to additional management measures such as closures until gear solutions are available.

For More Information: For more information, please refer to the following NOAA Fisheries Web site: <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/prd/.htm>.



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

February 20, 2013
FB13-011

Fishermen Are Reminded of the Importance of Complying With All TED Regulations Under New Fleet-wide TED Performance Standard for Shrimp Otter Trawls

The Impact of TED Violations on Sea Turtles

By installing TEDs in your nets it may seem as though you have done your part to protect sea turtles, but, there is more to it than that. TEDs must be constructed, installed, and operating in compliance with federal TED requirements in order for them to be effective in reducing the bycatch of different sizes and species of sea turtles in otter trawls. When legally-constructed TEDs are installed and operating correctly in shrimp trawl nets, a small percentage of the sea turtles entering the nets (i.e., 3 percent) still do not escape by means of the TED and are captured. For example, some sea turtles are caught in the trawl body or wings and do not make it to the TED to escape. However, when the TED in your net is not constructed, installed, or operating legally, TED effectiveness can be reduced (i.e., have more than 3 percent sea turtle capture rate) and, in severe cases, completely compromised (i.e., have a 100 percent sea turtle capture rate). Because individual otter trawls interact with a large number of sea turtles, poor TED compliance, even by a relatively small portion of the fleet, has the potential to increase sea turtle mortality levels substantially.

Not all TED violations have the same impact on sea turtles capture rates. Two important factors are the angle at which your TED hangs in your net and the escape opening size. For example, when a TED is sewn into your net at too steep of an angle, it can result in most or all sea turtles being captured, particularly smaller sea turtles. Similarly, if TED escape openings in your net are too small, at least some sea turtles will not be able to escape, particularly larger, adult sea turtles.

Managing the Effectiveness of TEDs via a Fleet-Wide Compliance and TED Performance Standard for Shrimp Otter Trawls

On May 9, 2012, NOAA Fisheries issued a [Biological Opinion](#) under the Endangered Species Act, which established a new management approach and new agency requirements for minimizing sea turtle captures in shrimp otter trawl fisheries. The most important of these new requirements is a system to measure and monitor the actual performance of shrimp otter trawls in releasing sea turtles, which became effective June 1, 2012. Under these new requirements, NOAA Fisheries is using detailed data on the type and severity of TED violations collected by the NOAA Office of Law Enforcement when they board shrimp trawl vessels to estimate sea turtle capture rates. NOAA Fisheries has established a new fleet-wide TED performance standard which limits otter trawls to an overall 12 percent sea turtle capture rate. This rate is based on the average capture rate estimated by NOAA Fisheries that was achieved by the shrimp otter trawl fleet during the four-month period of August - November 2011. It is the responsibility of fisherman to comply with the regulations so the shrimp otter trawl fleet can keep its sea turtle capture rate at or below 12 percent. NOAA Fisheries will aid in this effort with continued outreach and enforcement.

Monitoring the New TED Performance Standard

The biological opinion requires NOAA Fisheries to monitor TED compliance to determine if the shrimp otter trawl fleet is performing on average at or below the 12 percent sea turtle capture rate performance standard every 6 months. Therefore, every six months NOAA Fisheries is reviewing NOAA Office of Law Enforcement TED inspection boarding records to estimate fleet-wide compliance

Otter Trawl Bulletin, continued on page 7

with the shrimp otter trawl TED regulations and associated sea turtle capture rates. If NOAA Fisheries estimates during one of these 6-month reviews that the shrimp otter trawl fleet on average exceeded the 12 percent standard, then a number of initial actions are required including—

- Identification of any discrete areas where non-compliance is occurring.
 - Targeted outreach by the NOAA Fisheries Gear Monitoring Team in problem areas including training and courtesy inspections.
 - Targeted Law Enforcement in problem areas.
 - Monitoring capture rates on a monthly basis.
- If, after monitoring shrimp otter trawl fisheries (i.e., via vessel boardings) each month for an additional 6 months, NOAA Fisheries finds that these initial actions have not been sufficient to reduce the fleet-wide sea turtle capture rate below the 12 percent, NOAA Fisheries will then consider closing areas where shrimpers are not following the law to shrimp fishing for up to one year. NOAA Fisheries can lessen this time only if it can demonstrate that continued outreach will improve compliance in the area such that the capture rate will be at acceptable levels within less than one year.

In estimating the percent of sea turtles entering your net that would be captured, NOAA Fisheries evaluates the various types and degrees of severity of TED violations and their corresponding effects on both small and large sea turtles. Types of violations which are evaluated include (but are not limited to):

- Excessive TED angles.
- Excessive flap overlap on double cover escape openings.
- Insufficient cut measurements on both single- and double-cover escape openings.
- Other miscellaneous violations (e.g., floatation problems (too few or improper placing), missing TED bars).

How are sea turtle capture rates for the otter trawl fleet estimated?

NOAA Fisheries estimates sea turtle capture rates for the otter trawl fleet using the following 3-step process:

Step 1 - Of the total number of vessels boarded for TED inspection by NOAA Office of Law Enforcement, NOAA Fisheries calculates the percentage that were found to be fully compliant and the percentage that were found to be in violation.

Step 2 - NOAA Fisheries assigns sea turtle capture rates (i.e., TED effectiveness) to each vessel boarded. NOAA Fisheries assigns a 3 percent sea turtle capture rate if TEDs were in compliance because TEDs are 97 percent effective when properly constructed, installed, and maintained. For vessel boardings where violations were documented, NOAA Fisheries assigns an estimated sea turtle capture rate (ranging from 3 percent to 100 percent) to the most severe violation found on a vessel based on the results of TED testing observations and expert opinion of NOAA Fisheries, Southeast Fisheries Science Center gear technicians. Capture rates are assigned to two size-groups of turtles which are encountered in shrimp fisheries –juveniles of loggerhead and green sea turtles, and all Kemp's ridley sea turtles (i.e., small-size group), and adult loggerhead and green sea turtles, and all leatherback sea turtles (i.e., large-size group).

Step 3 - NOAA Fisheries applies the following formula to calculate fleet-wide sea turtle capture rates: (percent of boarded vessels fully compliant) x (3% capture rate of fully compliant TEDs) + (percent of boarded vessels with violation) x (weighted average capture rate associated with the most severe violations).

The First Six-Month Review and NOAA Fisheries' Next Steps

NOAA Fisheries has completed its first 6-month review (June 1 through November 30, 2012) under the new requirement. The results indicate that the June through November 2012 average fleet-wide sea turtle capture rate in otter trawls was approximately 13 percent. Although this capture rate level is only slightly higher than the established maximum sea turtle capture rate standard, NOAA Fisheries is now taking specific actions as required by the biological opinion to reduce the sea turtle capture to 12 percent or below. TED violations were documented through NOAA Office of Law Enforcement vessel boardings in multiple locations in both the Atlantic and Gulf and did not appear to be concentrated in certain fishing areas. Therefore, NOAA Fisheries is holding informal training and courtesy dockside inspections throughout each region to assist fishermen in complying with the TED regulations. A listing of currently scheduled training dates and locations is maintained on the Southeast Regional office's website. NMFS is now monitoring NOAA Office of Law Enforcement boardings data on a monthly basis to help ensure the shrimp otter trawl fleet achieves the capture rate performance standard in the next 6-month review (December 1, 2012, through May 31, 2013). For more detailed results of this and future 6-month reviews and monthly sea turtle capture rate estimates, visit the Southeast Regional Office website at: <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/>

Ways You Can Help Avoid Additional Regulatory Action

- Know and comply with all of your [TED regulations](#)!
- Don't leave the dock unless you are sure your TEDs are in compliance.
- Review available [TED compliance guidance](#).
- Attend TED trainings when available in your area.
- Ask the NOAA Fisheries Gear Monitoring Team (GMT) to inspect your TEDs and work with you to get them into compliance BEFORE you leave the dock—rather than wait for a law enforcement officer to board you and give you a ticket. To make arrangements for a courtesy TED inspection or if you have any questions, just call the GMT at their Pascagoula, MS, office. Contact the GMT coordinator, Dale Stevens, by phone at 228-549-1773 or by email at robert.d.stevens@noaa.gov.
- Conduct regular TED tune-ups. TEDs must be regularly maintained like other fishing gear in order to benefit sea turtles, as well as maintain shrimp catch. The grid angle must be checked on a regular basis to assure the TED has maintained the proper angle.
- Share this information with other shrimp otter trawl fishermen. Improper and illegal TEDs on any vessel can now affect you.

For More Information:

NOAA Fisheries is developing a web page that will include links to all TED regulations, rulemaking documents, and compliance data and resources for shrimp fishermen. This web page will be your "Go-TO" for everything you need to know about how to reduce sea turtle mortality in shrimp fisheries. Look for this new page coming soon under "Information for Fishermen" on the left-hand side of the Southeast Regional Office home page at: <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/>.

MDMR asks fishermen to report Asian tiger shrimp sightings

The Mississippi Department of Resources is asking fishermen and seafood processors to be on the lookout for exotic Asian tiger shrimp (*Penaeus monodon*). This species, native to South East Asia, Australia and the Philippines has been found recently in Mississippi waters and could pose a threat to native shrimp species.

Commercial shrimp fishermen reported landing fifteen Asian tiger shrimp from Mississippi waters in 2011

and sixteen in 2012. Tiger shrimp were captured in the Mississippi Sound near Pascagoula, Bellfountaine Point, Round Island, East of Cat Island, South of Horn Island and near the Chandeleur Islands. The first recorded Mississippi Sound sightings occurred near Pascagoula in 2009. Tiger shrimp have also been found in the waters of Louisiana, Alabama, Florida, Texas and the Carolinas.

These exotic shrimp are presumed to have escaped from aquaculture facilities in the Caribbean and carried here by ocean currents. Although no tiger shrimp are currently being raised commercial-



ly in the United States, past aquaculture facilities have operated in Texas, Alabama, Florida and South Carolina. Potential environmental threats from exotic shrimp introductions include diseases and aggression affecting native shrimp including competition for food and habitat.

Asian tiger shrimp can easily be identified by the distinctive black and white "tiger" striping pattern on the shell and their large

size compared to native shrimp. These giant crustaceans can grow to more than 10 inches long and weigh more than half a pound. When cooked, the meat turns white and the stripes turn red.

The MDMR would like to know about any Asian tiger shrimp caught in Mississippi waters to help determine the intensity of this threat. Sightings can be reported via email or text message to report.invasive@dmr.ms.gov or by phone during business hours at (228) 374-5000.

Capital Construction Fund Program available to fishermen

The purpose of the Capital Construction Fund (CCF) Program is to improve the fishing fleet by allowing fishermen to increase their growth of funds to replace or improve their fishing vessels. Created by the Merchant Marine Act of 1936, as amended (46 U.S.C. 1177), the CCF Program enables fishermen to construct, reconstruct, or under limited circumstances, acquire fishing vessels with before-tax, rather than after-tax dollars. The program allows fishermen to defer tax on income from the operation of their fishing vessels. Under the CCF Program, the amount accumulated by deferring tax on fishing income, when used to help pay for a vessel project, is, in effect, an interest free loan from the Government.

Any U.S. citizen is eligible who owns or leases a U.S.-built fishing vessel of at least two net tons and has an acceptable plan for refurbishing that vessel or building or acquiring an additional fishing vessel of at least two net tons. The term "fishing vessel" includes vessels used commercially in the fisheries of the U.S. for catching, transporting, and processing fish. Applications are accepted at any time. However, to be applicable to any given tax year, a CCF agreement must be executed and entered on or before the due date (with extensions) for filing your Federal tax return for that tax year.

If you are a U.S. citizen and you own or lease one or more eligible vessels, you can open a CCF account. However, before you open your CCF account, you must enter into an agreement with the Secretary of Commerce through the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

The CCF agreement will establish which of your existing fishing vessels will be eligible for deferral of taxable income. These are called "Schedule A" vessels. Also what kind of qualified vessel (catching, processing or transporting/tendering fishing vessel) you will construct, reconstruct, or acquire with the money in your CCF account is called "Schedule B" vessels. "Schedule B" refers to planned work or acquisition and is where you will keep the tax-deferred income you will use to pay for your Schedule B objectives. The place where you will keep this money is called the "CCF depository," and the account

is referred to as the "CCF account." You decide what portion of your taxable income from your Schedule A vessels you want to deposit into your CCF account for the tax year. You then deposit that income into your CCF account in your designated CCF depository on or before your tax due date. Thus you have put this deferred taxable fishing income into your own account in your own depository and will have it available to help pay for your Schedule B objectives.

An Investment Guide showing allowable investments of your CCF money is provided with the application kit. Open an account at the approved CCF depository in your own name (as shown on your approved CCF Agreement) and request that it be labeled "for CCF." The account must be separate from general operating, personal savings or checking accounts, and used only for approved CCF activity. You may, of course, designate more than one depository in your CCF Agreement. After entering the Agreement, additional depositories must be approved by NMFS.

Attempts have been made in preparing this information to present the material as accurately and up to date as possible. Nevertheless, this program is jointly administered by NMFS and the Internal Revenue Service and the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources cannot be responsible for actions taken in reliance on this article which may prove to be in variance with regulations, procedures, or determinations of other agencies.

You may get additional information or request an application kit at:

NOAA/NMFS, Financial Services Division, F/MB5
Capital Construction Fund Program
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3282
Telephone: (301)427-8728 FAX: (301)713-1939
http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/mb/financial_services/ccf.htm

USCG Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety (CFVS) Requirements Update

On December 20, 2012, the President signed the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2012. This law made significant changes to the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2010 which had previously established safety and equipment requirements for commercial fishing vessels. Last year, the Coast Guard a letter explaining that after October 15, 2012, all commercial fishing, fish tender, and fish processing vessels that operated more than 3 nautical miles offshore must demonstrate full compliance with existing fishing industry vessel safety regulations by completing a biennial safety examination.

The Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2012 has made changes to the law that now requires dockside safety examinations to be completed once every 5 years instead of once every two years and now requires that these vessels operating 3 nautical miles offshore must complete their first dockside examination no later than October 15, 2015.

To arrange for an examination, contact your local Coast Guard Sector, Marine Safety Unit, or Field Office and ask for the local

fishing vessel safety examiner. USCG Gulfport can be reached at (228)863-5818 or USCG Mobile at (251)441-6215. You may also request and examination through a link on the website, www.fishinfo.com.

Links for more information:

Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Home: <http://www.uscg.mil/d13/cfvs/>

USCG Letter to Mariners: <http://www.uscg.mil/d13/cfvs/PDFs/RevisedLtr.pdf>

Update on CFVS Requirements: <http://www.fishsafe.info/Update%20on%20CFVS%20Requirements%20-%201Mar2013.pdf>

Vessel Inspection Checklist Generator: <http://www.uscg.mil/d13/cfvs/DocksideExams/vFinal.swf>

Dockside Safety Examinations Flyer: https://homeport.uscg.mil/cgi-bin/st/portal/uscg_docs/MyCG/Editorial/20100322/8E-Dockside%20Exams.pdf?id=07284bd621279a96df6ab785e1dd8529cf-c04218&user_id=202712ea454ebafaaa5ca064a1a6a323

GSMFC, Trace Register, LLC, and MRAG Americas, Inc. begin regional traceability program for Gulf seafood

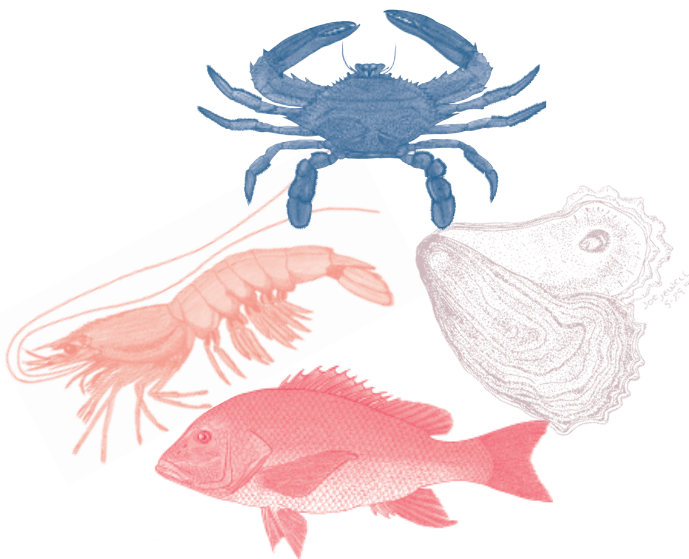
The Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC), Trace Register, LLC, and MRAG Americas, Inc. have begun a regional traceability program aimed at ensuring confidence in the market about Gulf of Mexico seafood. This program will empower the regional fisheries management bodies, the seafood industry, and consumers by providing critical information about seafood from the Gulf as it travels from the boat to the plate.

The project is a component of the GSMFC's Oil Disaster Recovery Program, which is funded by NOAA Award No. NA10NMF4770481 in an effort to mitigate the economic effects of the oil disaster on Gulf fisheries. With regional coordination by the GSMFC, this program is currently funded through the end of 2015.

The program aims to place confidence into the marketplace by creating innovative information portals, integrating external data such as seafood testing results, and answering complex fisheries management questions. It will also be well placed to meet the requirements of eco-labeling programs that require chain-of-custody for fishery products.

Alex Miller, GSMFC economist and traceability coordinator, said "information about Gulf seafood is out there, we just need to organize it and make it available in the right format for people to make well-informed decisions. The Trace Register-MRAG system will allow us to do that."

Consumers will be engaged virtually



through the use of smart phones and online portals, which will allow them to learn the story of where their seafood came from, who caught it, and how their dinner navigated the market on its way to their plate.

Trace Register, LLC, a global food traceability company, will employ their system to capture information from state trip tickets that are used to document catch when boats unload at the dock. Dealers, processors, distributors, and retailers will voluntarily link their information about the seafood they handle into the system as it makes its way from the dock to the dinner table. MRAG Americas, an independent fishery consulting business, will enhance the system by conducting random voluntary audits aimed at mitigating risk to buyers.

Trace Register founder and CEO, Phil Werdal, said his team "is both pleased and hon-

ored that the Gulf seafood industry has selected Trace Register for this important project." He added, "All of us at Trace Register look forward to working with the GSMFC to develop and implement an electronic traceability system that will help consumers have confidence in the seafood they buy from the Gulf."

Economic analysis from 2008, the most recent available, showed that the commercial seafood industry of the Gulf generated more than \$5 billion in sales impacts and supported more than 119,000 jobs throughout the Gulf region. Since then, markets have continued to erode as a result of imported seafood products and were later im-

acted by the oil disaster. The development of a regional traceability system has the potential to reestablish those markets and create new ones by supplying a myriad of information about Gulf fishery products.

The GSMFC seeks to conserve, develop, and fully utilize the fishery resources of the Gulf of Mexico in order to provide food, employment, income, and recreation to the people of these United States.

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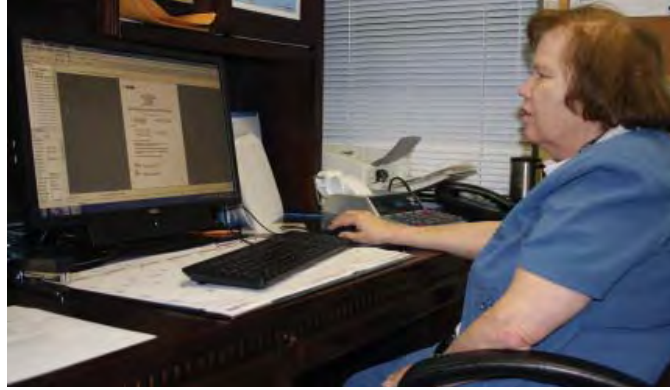


MDMR Trip Ticket Program helps track value, hard work of fishermen

The Trip Ticket Program (TTP) Division at the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MDMR) is staffed by Darrin Stewart, Nadine Ross and Ava Coleman. This program was implemented on January 1, 2012, and is a system used to collect commercial landings and associated information by trip. As a participant of this program shrimpers are issued, at no cost, a "Fresh Product Permit" which allows them to legally sell their catch directly to the public. Historically, these sales to the public were never captured as they are in neighboring Gulf States, so the true value and hard work of the shrimp fishermen in Mississippi was not accurately recorded. Shrimpers are responsible for submitting trip tickets on sales they make to the public and restaurants, or shrimp they transport out of state by vehicle, however; if they sell directly to a Mississippi dealer or processor then it is the dealer or processors responsibility for reporting the sale and providing the fishermen a copy for their records if requested.

All trip tickets for the month are due by the 10th of the following month and should be accompanied by a trip ticket submission form issued by the MDMR. If no fishing activity took place during the month the trip ticket submission form still must be filled out and sent in by the 10th of the following month indicating "0" trips were taken for that month.

As a way to save time specialized software can be installed, at no cost, for those with a computer and Internet access to store and submit trip ticket information. If you are interested in this program, please contact our contractor, Claude Peterson, BlueFin Data, LLC at (225)744-0807.



MDMR Trip Ticket Program staffer Nadine Ross scans trip tickets to the database.

For your convenience the trip ticket personnel can provide:

1. "One-on-one" interviews with each shrimper and explain the program.
2. Distribute instructional manuals and trip ticket forms with self-addressed labels to each participant.
3. Explanation on how to complete trip ticket forms accurately.
4. Assistance and a contact number for any problems/questions that may arise.
5. Ticket drop boxes located in the three coastal counties.

The information gathered through this program and reported with the

cooperation of shrimpers is beneficial to the fishermen, MDMR fishery managers, and ultimately our entire State for the following reasons:

1. Trip tickets provide fishery managers with available consistent shrimp landings data for use in management decisions.
2. Provides proof of each shrimper's catch. In the case of another natural or man-made disaster this information will be a documented record for the shrimpers and managers alike.
3. Catch data aids fishery managers to determine the impact of environmental changes and regulations.
4. Specific catch information gathered by trip tickets will improve stock assessments.

As with any program, there is always room for improvement. Currently, upgrades are being made to enhance data processing which will allow this program to become more useful for fisherman and managers. If you have any questions concerning the trip ticket program, contact the MDMR Finfish Department at (228) 374-5000. Your cooperation and suggestions are appreciated.

Study to document the economic performance, impacts of inshore shrimp fishery

The Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC), in collaboration with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, has once again launched a survey of commercial fishermen who harvest shrimp in inshore or state waters across the Gulf of Mexico. This survey is intended to serve as an update to an earlier survey of inshore shrimpers (conducted by the GSMFC in 2008) and as a complement to an ongoing series of economic surveys of shrimpers in federal waters conducted by NOAA Fisheries. The information gathered in this project will contribute to more informed decision-making on a variety of commercial fishing issues.

This latest systematic effort to collect data from shrimpers throughout the Gulf will document the current economic health of the inshore shrimp fishery in 2012. Having such information in hand will help fisheries managers, commercial shrimpers, and other associated stakeholders understand the current economic conditions and challenges of the inshore Gulf shrimp fishery. The availability of systematic, unbiased data regarding this important economic sector is expected to contribute to improved fisheries management decisions, just as the results of the

2008 survey did in years past.

This study will analyze the economic performance of the fishery and estimate the economic impacts of the industry on the local and regional economy. The analysis will present estimates of average revenues, expenses, and jobs connected to the industry.

This study is being conducted as a mail survey and will run through early summer 2013. Individual responses will remain confidential. The first 600 shrimpers who complete the survey will receive a compensation card that can be used anywhere credit cards are accepted. The GSMFC is grateful for the cooperation and support of the relevant state regulatory agencies and several industry groups in each of the five Gulf States in the organization and implementation of this survey.

CONTACT:

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HACCP, ServSafe training available for growing your business

If you are interested in expanding your seafood business to include headless shrimp or other improvements to your catch that qualify as “changing the nature of the product”, the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) requires Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) Training.

The Association of Food and Drug Officials has instructors certified to conduct the HACCP Training Course and will send their instructors to the Mississippi coast if at least 12 people register as participants. The cost for this training is less than \$200 each. If 12 attendees aren't available, MDMR suggests enrollment in an Internet course through this link for Portion A: <http://seafood.ucdavis.edu/haccp/training/cornell.htm>

(First is the introduction to the Internet course by the University of California, then scroll down and click on the link in Step No. 1: <http://seafoodhaccp.cornell.edu/Intro/index.html>. Cost is \$60.)

The hands-on training for Portion B is available through nearby universities, such as Auburn University, Louisiana State University and Mississippi State University. Prices vary.

Another training opportunity, ServSafe, is required by the FDA through Mississippi Department of Health for selling cooked product. The cost is \$140 (books and exam) through Mississippi State University Extension Service (<http://msucare.com/servsafe/calendar.html>). The Mississippi Hospitality and Restaurant Association offers the training as well for \$150 (books and exam) (<http://www.msra.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=90>). There is also an online course available for \$15 at <http://www.servsafe.com/customer-assistance> by choosing ServSafe Food Handler



A work group representative presents his group's HACCP Plan to the class as part of one of the HACCP training exercises.

under the Purchase option for Mississippi.

The MDMR Seafood Technology Bureau can help you check availability, register and prepare:

Jeff Davis: 228- 523-4062; jeff.davis@dmr.ms.gov

Jessica Rankin: 228-523-4095; Jessica.rankin@dmr.ms.gov

Mai Dang: 228-523-4081; mai.dang@dmr.ms.gov

Guide to licenses and permits required for certain seafood business activities

Types of Seafood Licenses	BUSINESS ACTIVITIES							
	Harvesting	Selling seafood to the public fresh off the boat		Selling seafood to a retail store		Selling seafood roadside peddling		Selling seafood to a Mississippi dealer/processor wholesale
		Harvester (sell your own catch)	Seafood Dealer (buy/resell)	Harvester (sell your own catch)	Seafood Dealer (buy/resell)	Harvester (sell your own catch)	Seafood Dealer (buy/resell)	Harvester (sell your own catch)
Commercial Fishing License	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓
Seafood Dealers License			✓		✓		✓	✓
Fresh Product Permit		✓		✓		✓		
Food Permit from Health. Dept. 601-576-7689					✓ *	✓	✓	✓ *
= Needed * = Needed only if product is cooked								

GRANT FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR COMMERCIAL FISHING BUSINESSES



WAS YOUR BUSINESS IMPACTED BY THE DEEP WATER HORIZON OIL

Up to \$5,000 in business reimbursement grants are available for commercial fishing businesses.

Eligibility Requirements:

1. Commercial fishermen, shrimpers, or other wild-catch/aquaculture-related businesses.
2. Business located in Hancock, Harrison or Jackson County.
3. Minimum of two employees and a maximum of 20 employees.
4. Attend a minimum of four hours of entrepreneurial training.

To prequalify contact the WIN Job Center: (By Appointment Only)

Hancock & Harrison County

Claudette Jones - 228-388-1212 or 228-238-9720

Jackson County

Shelia King - 228-712-3040 or 228-235-8225

Funded by the U.S. Department of Labor, and the Mississippi Department of Employment Security. The Mississippi Department of Employment Security is an Equal Opportunity Employer and welcomes applicants without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age or qualified disability.

2013 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 onboard. 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 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/pr/mm/mmap.htm>.

NOAA's NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE (NMFS) 2013 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 or state 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, 2013 through December 31, 2013

Seafood Safety Update

The MDMR, along with the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, continue to sample seafood from Mississippi waters each month (Table 1) in response to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill disaster. The safety of commercial seafood is determined by comparing tissue contaminant concentrations to FDA levels of concern. Toxicologists from federal and state agencies established criteria for polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in fish and shellfish using standard FDA and EPA risk assessment methods, which are protective of human health and applied consistently in each of the states and in federal waters.

For each of the four fishery categories—shrimp, crab, finfish and oysters (see Table 2)—0.5 pounds of edible tissue is needed for testing. The number of specimens needed to extract the required amount of tissue varies by species: 10 to 12 blue crabs, 1 pound whole shrimp, etc. Finfish species used for this type sampling include, but are not limited to, menhaden, mullet, cobia, croaker, white trout, spotted sea trout and red drum. Tissue samples are analyzed at the Mississippi State Chemical Laboratory located at Mississippi State University. All 588 Mississippi response samples collected from May 28, 2010 to March 27, 2013 have been significantly below levels of concern. The results for each of Mississippi's four major fisheries are summarized in Table 2 below. All target PAH Compounds detected were trace amounts, well below levels of concern, as shown in Table 3.

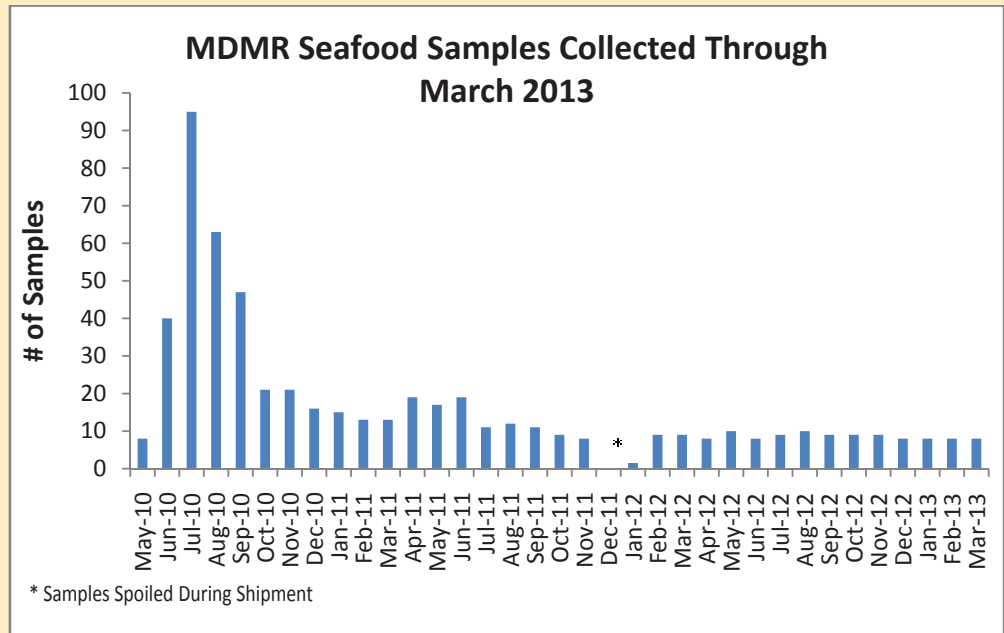


Table 1. Seafood Safety Samples Collected Monthly

Sample Dates: 5/28/10- 3/27/13	Total	Above Levels of Concern	Lab Results Pending
Shrimp	130	0	1
Crab	112	0	2
Finfish	225	0	3
Oysters	121	0	2
All Seafood	588	0	8

Table 2. Mississippi Response Seafood Sampling Results

PAH Compounds	Shrimp		Fish		Crab		Oyster	
	Max Detected	Level of Concern	Max Detected	Level of Concern	Max Detected	Level of Concern	Max Detected	Level of Concern
Napthalene	0.0267	123	0.03506	32.7	0.0952	123	0.0196	133
Fluorene	0.00282	246	0.00211	65.3	0.01264	246	0.00695	267
Anthracene/Phenanthrene	0.0271	1846	0.0158	490	0.0305	1846	0.01595	2000
Pyrene	0.00366	185	0.006	49	0.077	185	0.0169	200
Fluoranthene	0.00477	246	0.006	65.3	0.0116	246	0.00294	267
Chrysene	0	132	0	35	0.000751	132	0.000547	143
Benzo(k)fluoranthene	0	13.2	0	3.5	0	13.2	0.000703	14.3
Benzo(b)fluoranthene	0	1.32	0	0.35	0.000644	1.32	0.000727	1.43
Benz(a)anthracene	0	1.32	0	0.35	0	1.32	0.000628	1.43
Indeno(1,2,3-cd)pyrene	0	1.32	0	0.35	0	1.32	0.00189	1.43
Dibenz(a,h)anthracene	0.000505	0.132	0	0.035	0	0.132	0.00209	0.143
Benzo(a)pyrene	0	0.132	0	0.035	0	0.132	0.00291	0.143

ppm = Parts per million

Table 3. Amounts of Detected and Levels of Concern (ppm)

Sea Turtle Study Update

In 2010 and 2011, the northern Gulf of Mexico saw an increased number of Kemp's ridley sea turtles washing ashore due to unknown causes. A total of 561 Kemp's ridley sea turtles were reported stranded in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama during 2010. During early 2011, three hundred ninety Kemp's ridley sea turtles died in this same area. The number of stranded turtles was significantly higher than strandings in previous years. The BP Macondo oil spill and shrimp trawling were thought by many to be possible causes. While the exact cause of all the turtle deaths was not definitively determined, NOAA Fisheries released a draft environmental impact statement in April 2012 that analyzed a range of potential alternatives to reduce incidental bycatch and mortality of sea turtles in the southeastern U.S. shrimp fisheries.

The Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources (CMR) unanimously approved a Sea Turtle Study Resolution, which was presented to them for approval at the June 19, 2012 CMR meeting. The approved resolution was submitted to the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and requested a comprehensive Gulf of Mexico sea turtle population and distribution study to provide vital baseline data on the status of current sea turtle populations and furthermore, to more fully investigate all possible causes of sea turtle mortality.

The Sea Turtle Study Resolution acknowledges that increased turtle strandings are occurring in the northern Gulf of Mexico states, and there is a need to explore all options because timing of increased strandings does not correlate with spatial distribution of shrimping effort. The resolution also acknowledges the numerous proactive precautionary measures that have been taken by the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MDMR) to address fisheries interactions, which may affect sea turtles in state waters.

Additionally, the Sea Turtle Study Resolution states that the CMR's management of marine sea turtles is essential, and recognizes the need to know the status and distribution of the listed sea turtle species in the state and all Gulf of Mexico waters before enacting regulations, which may severely impact shrimp fisheries and dependent communities within the Mississippi Coast region.

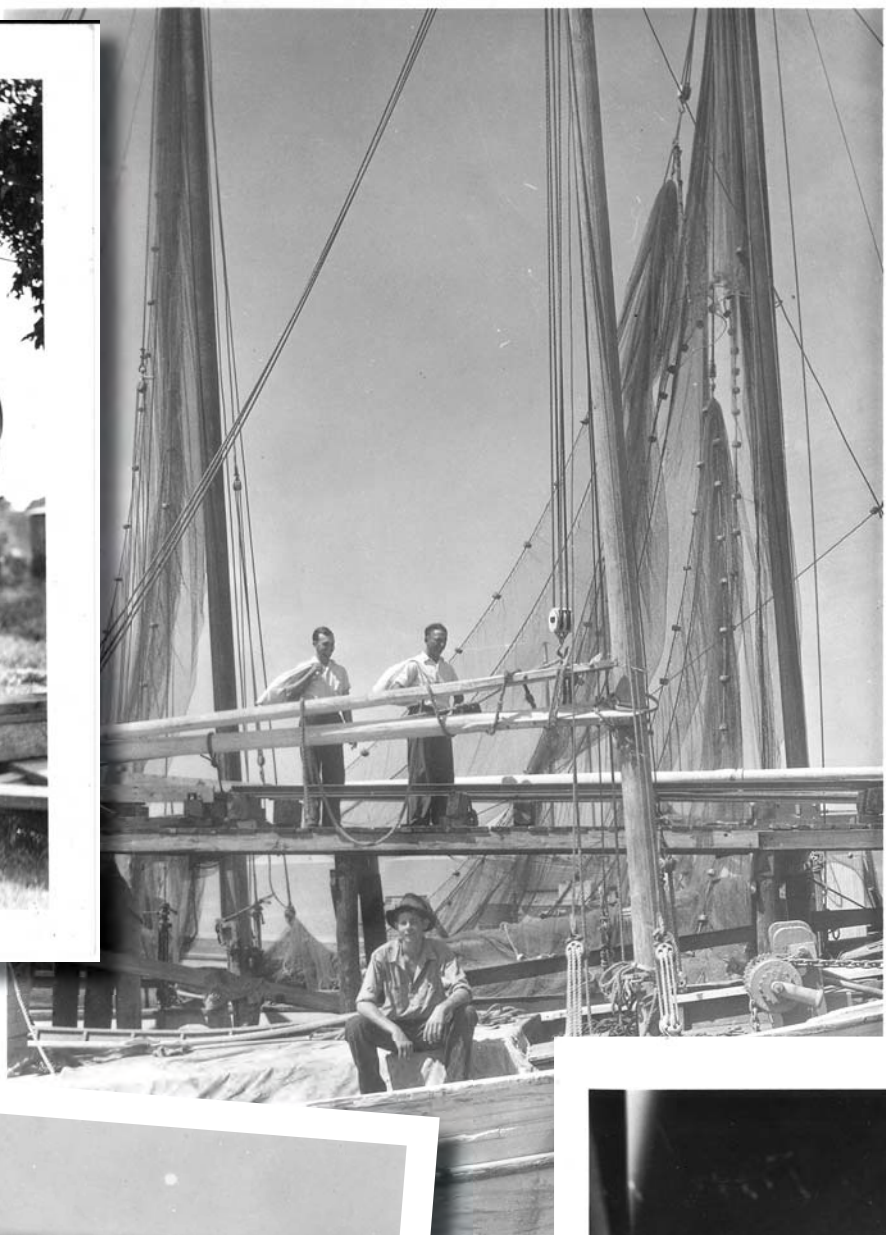
Fishery managers decided to convene a working group to study and report on northern Gulf of Mexico Kemp's ridley interactions with the shrimp fishery. The main goal of the working group is to conduct a Kemp's ridley stock assessment. The stock assessment will examine Kemp's ridley population status, trend, and temporal-spatial distribution within the Gulf of Mexico; examine status, trends, and temporal-spatial distribution of shrimping effort in the northern Gulf of Mexico; and determine relative contributions of conservation efforts, declining shrimping effort, and TED regulations and enforcement toward the exponential increase in the Kemp's ridley population.

Funding for the assessment came from NOAA Fisheries through an oil disaster recovery grant to the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC). Under the grant, GSMFC is charged with overseeing a program aimed at improving public perception of Gulf seafood and increasing consumer confidence in both the seafood products harvested from the Gulf and in State management programs which contribute to the sustainability of Gulf fisheries.

Data collection and modeling has been completed and preliminary reports have been released reflecting temporal nesting trends, mortalities, including age characterizations, and shrimping activities for the period 1966 through 2012. The final report is currently undergoing peer review and is expected to be formally released in May 2013.



Back in the Day...



Photos courtesy of Biloxi Public Library Local History & Genealogy Department



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Biloxi, Mississippi 39530

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Phil Bryant, *Governor*

**Mississippi Department
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Jamie M. Miller
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**Mississippi Commission
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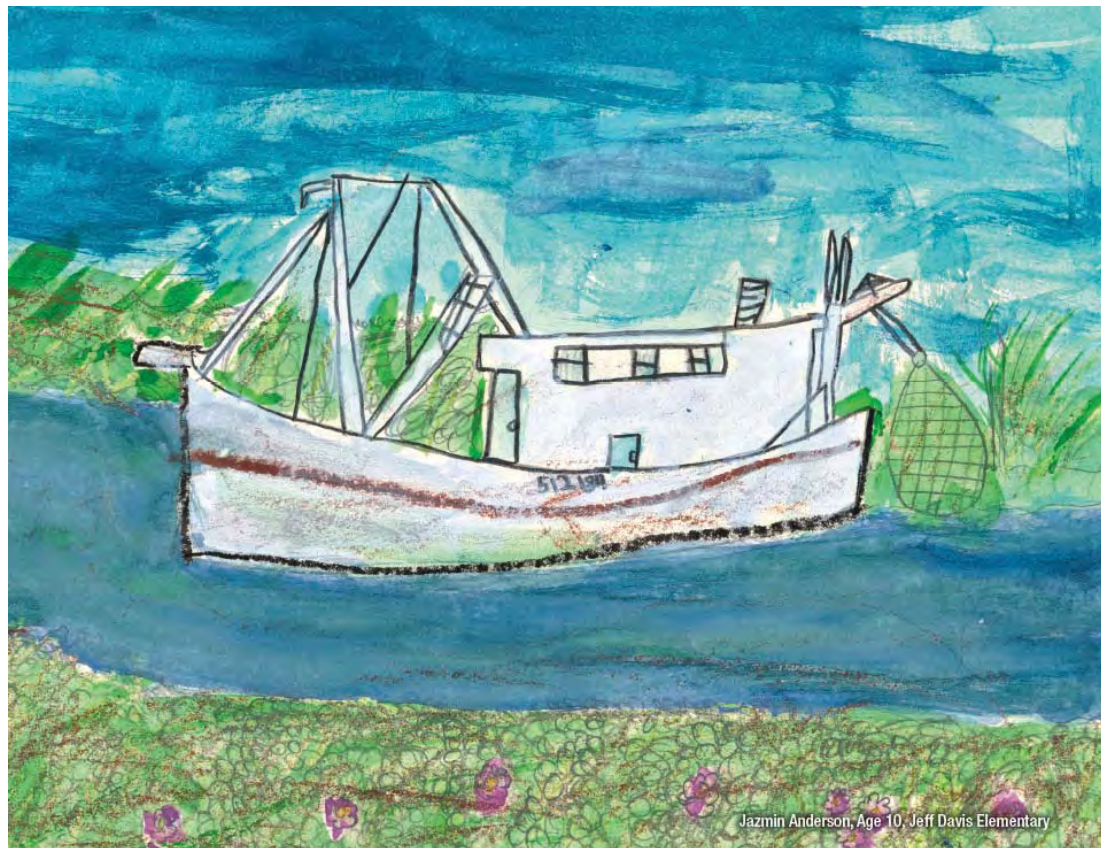
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Non Profit Environmental Organization

Jimmy Taylor, Vice Chairman
Charter Boat Operator

Steve Bosarge
Commercial Fisherman

Shelby Drummond
Recreational Fisherman

Richard Gollott
Commercial Seafood Processor



For information on open and closed areas,
please call the

Shrimp Hotline:
(866) WE-TRAWL | (866) 938-7295

Comments or Suggestions?

Contact:
Mississippi Department of Marine Resources
Shrimp and Crab Bureau
(228) 374-5000