

SPRING 2020

# SHRIMPING *the* SOUND

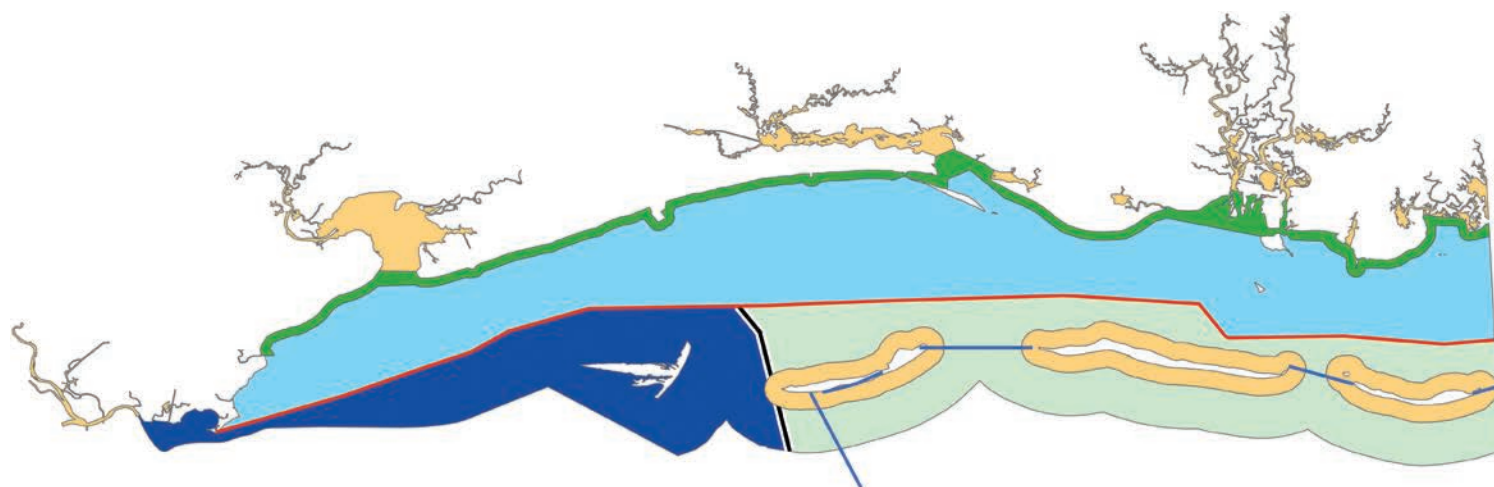
*A newsletter from the Shrimp and Crab Bureau at the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources*








ENHANCE ★ PROTECT ★ CONSERVE

## MISSISSIPPI INSHORE AND TERRITORIAL SEAS SHRIMPING GROUNDS

For the most up-to-date information on openings and closings of Mississippi's shrimping waters, please call the Mississippi Shrimp Information Hotline at (866) WE-TRAWL (938-7295).



-  Closed to all shrimping, inland and within 1 mile of the Gulf Islands National Seashore Shoreline
-  Open to Licensed 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 & recreational shrimping on a seasonal basis until April 30
-  Open to commercial & recreational shrimping on an annual basis

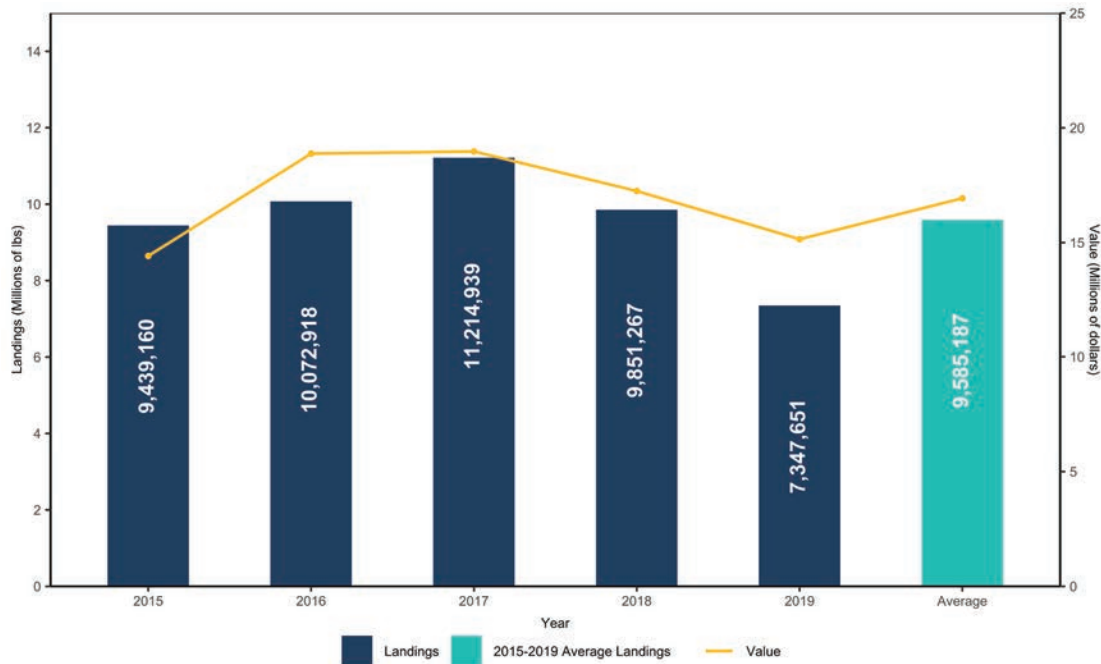
-  Intracoastal Waterway
-  Gulfport Ship Channel
-  COLREGS Demarcation Line

## SHRIMP SEASON OPENING DAY



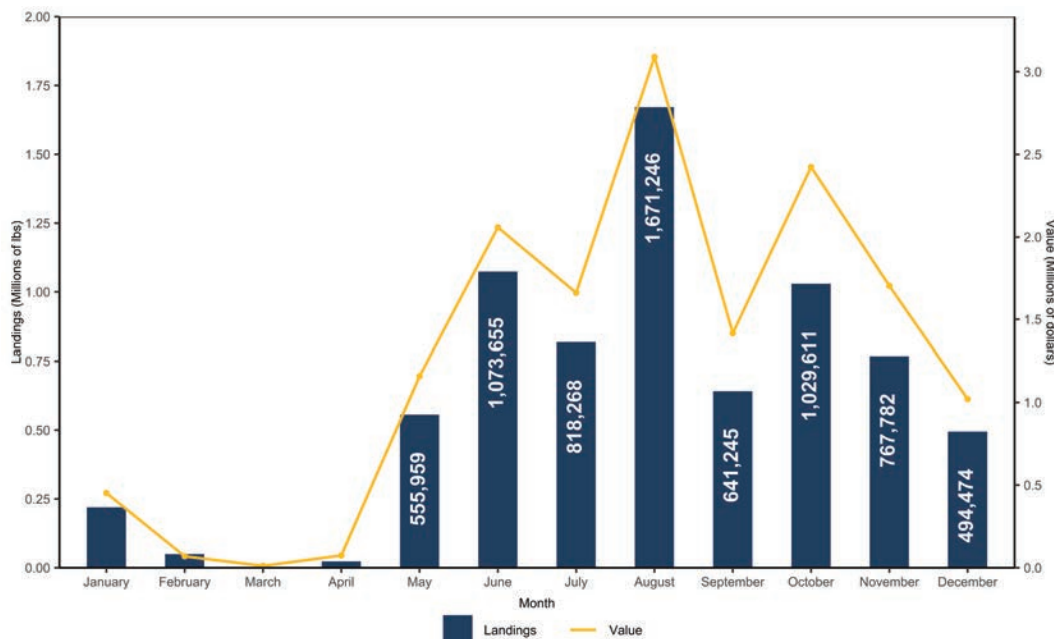
## MISSISSIPPI SHRIMP LANDINGS 2015-2019

The blue bars represent the preliminary total number of pounds (head-on) of shrimp landed for the given year while the blue-green bar represents the average shrimp landings over the 5-year period. The yellow line represents the total value in dollars of shrimp landed for the given years and the 5-year average. The highest landings and value, 11,214,939 pounds and \$18,963,202 respectively, occurred in 2017.



## 2019 MISSISSIPPI SHRIMP LANDINGS BY MONTH

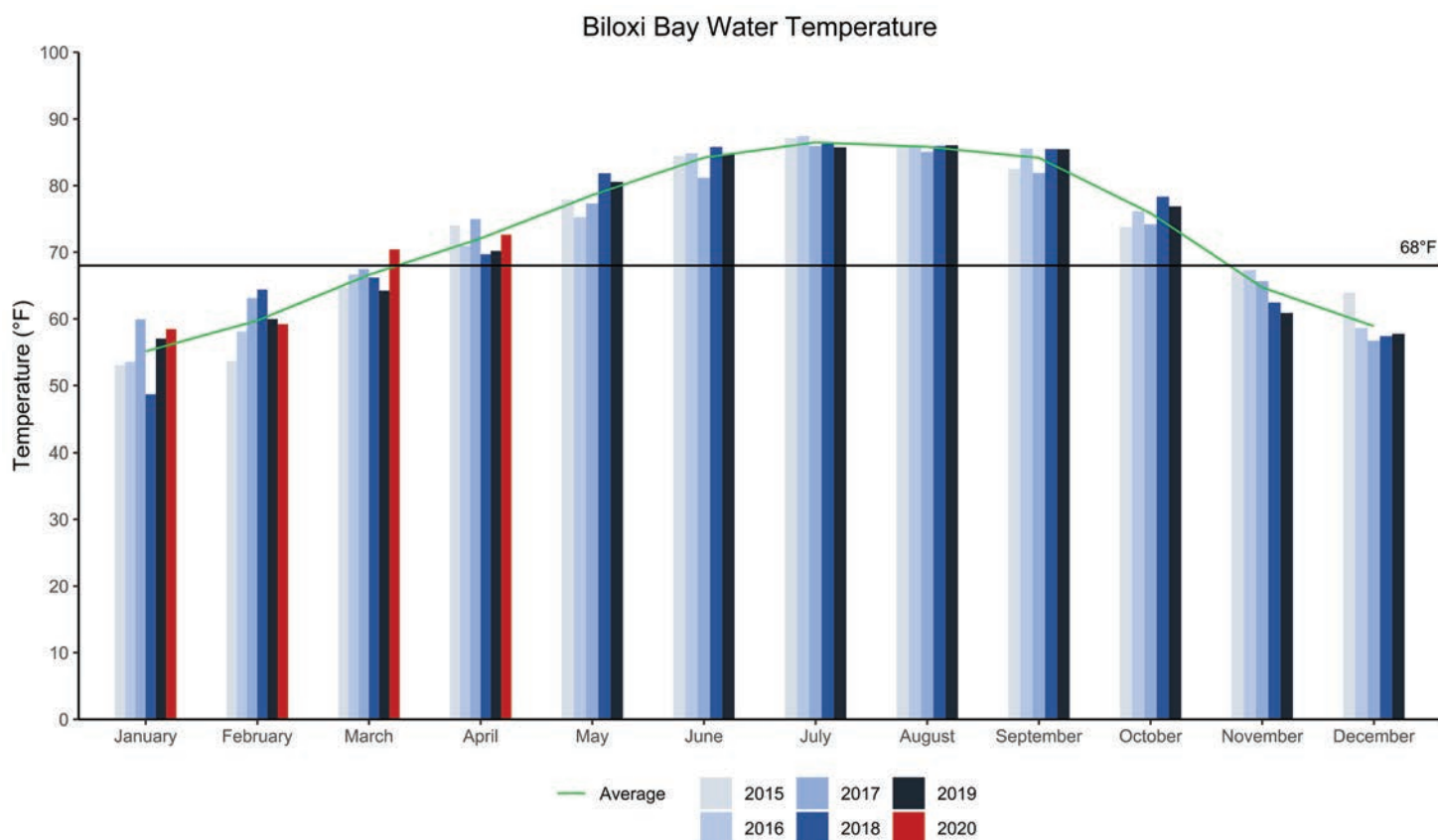
The blue bars represent the totals pounds (head-on) of shrimp landed each month in 2019 and the yellow line represents the total monthly value in dollars of those 2019 landings. The highest landings of shrimp in 2019 occurred in August at 1,671,246 pounds and the highest monthly value occurred in August at \$1,788,094.



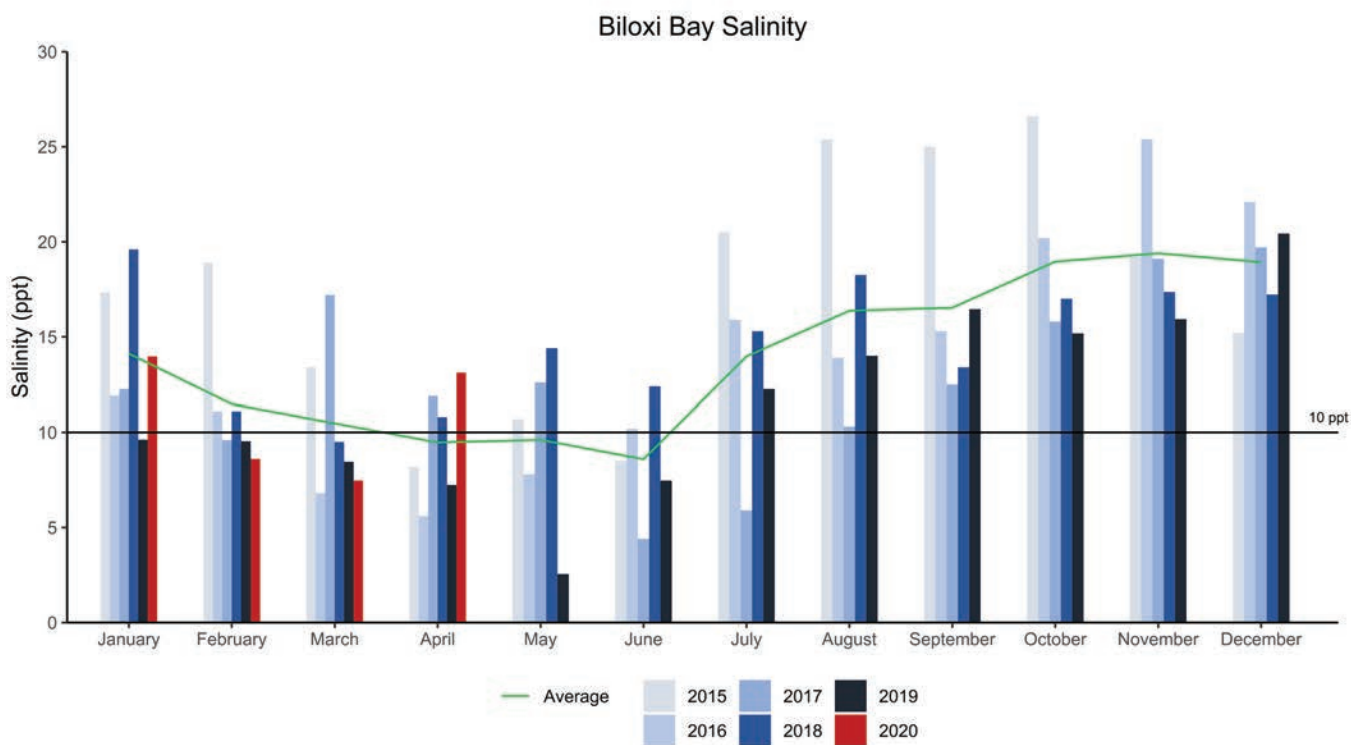
## MDMR BEGINS SAMPLING FOR THE ANNUAL OPENING OF BROWN SHRIMP SEASON



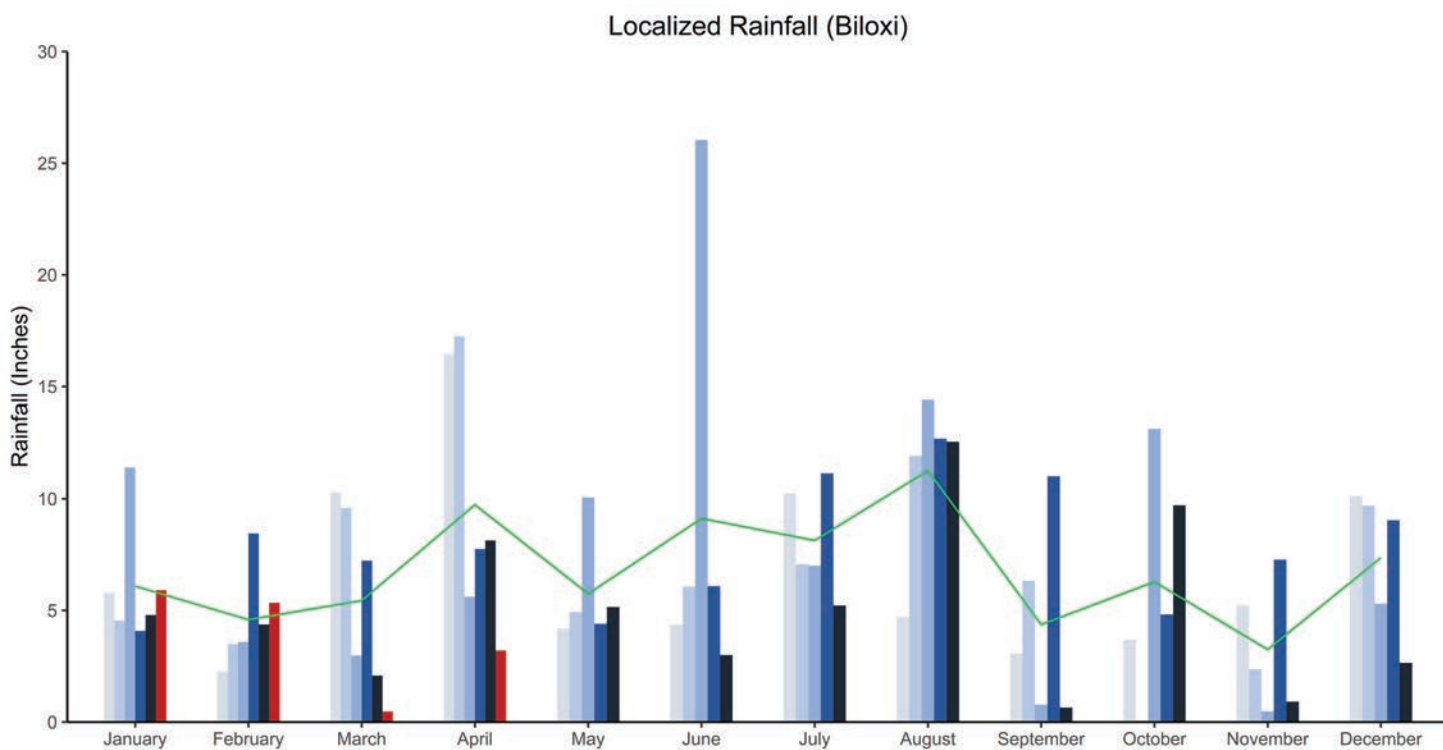
The MDMR Shrimp and Crab Bureau, along with the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory's (GCRL) Center for Fisheries Development, recently began extensive sampling for brown shrimp in the Mississippi Sound. The sampling is necessary for MDMR's fisheries scientists to determine the exact date for the opening of the 2020 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), 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. Biloxi Bay Water Temperature (January 2015–April 2020)



▲ Figure 2. Biloxi Bay Salinity (January 2015–April 2020)



▲ Figure 3. Monthly Rainfall for Biloxi Bay (January 2015–April 2020)



## AUDUBON NATURE INSTITUTE'S GULF UNITED FOR LASTING FISHERIES

G.U.L.F. is the sustainable seafood program out of Audubon Aquarium of the Americas in New Orleans. Since 2012, G.U.L.F. has been dedicated to promoting and advancing the sustainability of Gulf of Mexico fisheries.

Despite rigorous fisheries management in the U.S., many retail and foodservice companies have developed strict sourcing policies requiring third-party assurances of seafood sustainability. To meet this need, G.U.L.F. works with MDMR and local fishermen in Mississippi and around the Gulf to help fisheries advance sustainability with consideration for the local culture and economy. G.U.L.F. also supports the seafood industry in demonstrating and communicating their sustainability and improvement efforts.

### G.U.L.F.'S INITIATIVES:

**G.U.L.F. Responsible Fisheries Management Certification** - Seafood certification offers an objective and neutral assessment of a fishery, and third-party certification is increasingly a requirement for products in the marketplace. Audubon G.U.L.F. created the G.U.L.F. Responsible Fisheries Management (RFM) Certification to meet the needs of Gulf of Mexico fisheries seeking third party certification. G.U.L.F. RFM is recognized by the Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative, a requirement in most retail sustainable sourcing policies.

**Fishery Improvement Projects (FIPs)** - Retailers recognize that many fisheries face challenges in achieving certification for a variety of reasons. Fishery improvement projects (FIPs) provide a tool for these fisheries to demonstrate a commitment to sustainability. FIP stakeholders participate in the development and implementation of a workplan to advance the fishery against sustainability certification standards, with the option to become certified in the future. See G.U.L.F.'s website for details on the Mississippi Shrimp FIP. [audubongulf.org/fips/mississippi-shrimp/](http://audubongulf.org/fips/mississippi-shrimp/)

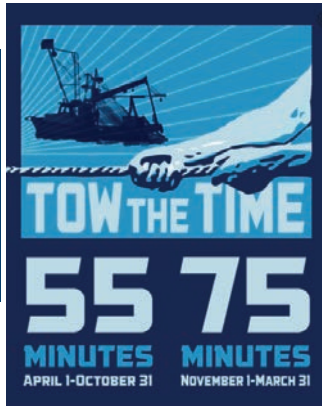
### WAYS TO BE INVOLVED IN SUSTAINABILITY:

<b>JOIN A FIP</b>	G.U.L.F. currently leads shrimp FIPs in Texas, Louisiana, Alabama, and Mississippi. The Mississippi FIP is currently considering transitioning from a basic to a comprehensive FIP (a more rigorous project), with opportunities for stakeholder input. Contact G.U.L.F. for more information on these projects.
<b>SKIMMER TRAWLS</b>	Display a Tow Time decal on your vessel. This is an easy step to demonstrate the industry's dedication and compliance with tow times. To receive a decal, contact Laura Deighan at <a href="mailto:ldighan@auduboninstitute.org">ldighan@auduboninstitute.org</a> or Jason Saucier with MDMR at <a href="mailto:jason.saucier@dmr.ms.gov">jason.saucier@dmr.ms.gov</a> .
<b>OTTER TRAWLS</b>	Schedule a courtesy gear check to have your TEDs inspected while the vessel is at the dock to ensure they are fully compliant. There are no penalties associated with these courtesy inspections and they demonstrate the industry's commitment to sustainability. Courtesy checks are conducted by G.U.L.F.'s expert consultant or the NOAA Gear Monitoring Team (separate from NOAA enforcement). Contact G.U.L.F. for more information. NOTE: Courtesy checks are on hold during COVID-19 closures and will resume when they can be conducted safely.

If you have any questions about G.U.L.F. or our projects, contact Laura Deighan at [ldighan@auduboninstitute.org](mailto:ldighan@auduboninstitute.org) or 504-398-3188 or visit [audubongulf.org](http://audubongulf.org).

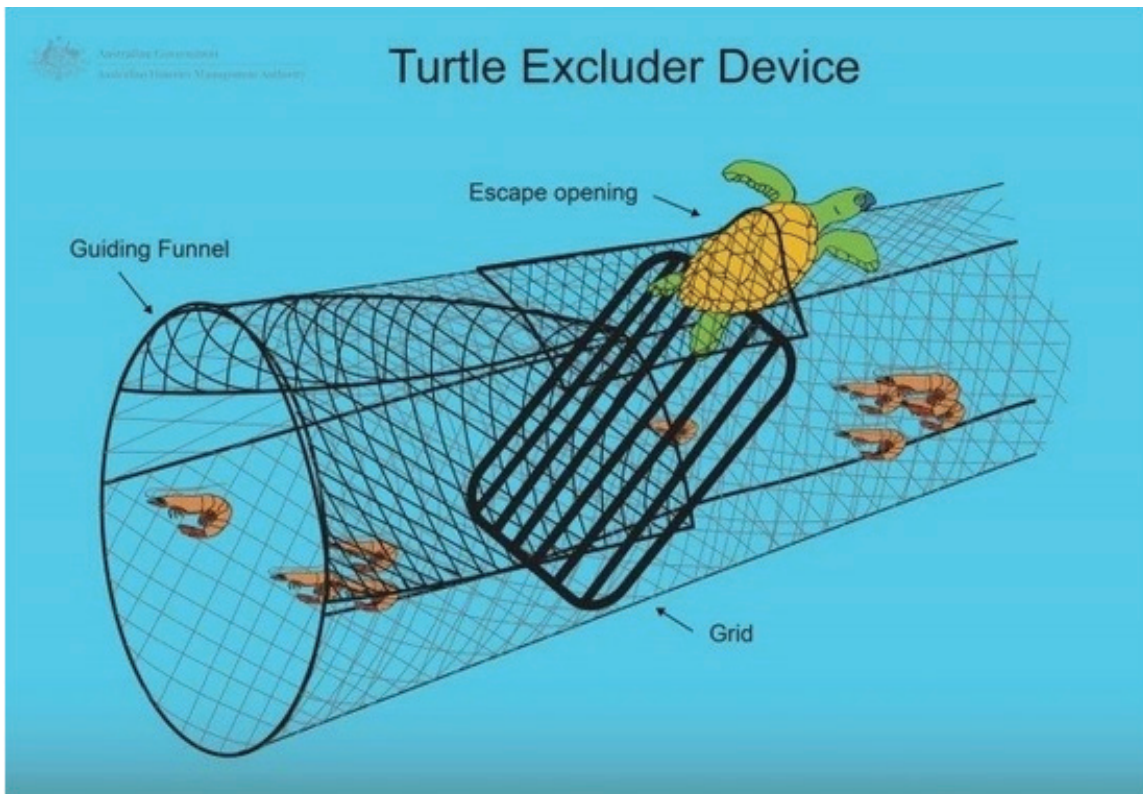
## NEW TED REQUIREMENTS FOR SKIMMER BOATS

Effective April 1, 2021, all skimmer trawl vessels 40 feet and greater in length rigged for fishing will be required to install and use Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) designed to exclude small turtles in their nets. Specifically, the space between the deflector bars of the new TEDs must not exceed three inches; escape openings must be oriented at the top of the net; and there are potential webbing restrictions on the escape opening flap depending on the type of TED grid and escape opening configuration. Additionally, NOAA Fisheries also amended the allowable tow time definition.



The new definition requires all vessels, less than 40 feet in length, operating under the allowable tow time limit to remove and empty their catch on deck within the tow time limit (i.e., 55 or 75 minutes, depending on season).

For additional information on the new rule, visit [fisheries.noaa.gov/bulletin/noaa-issues-final-rule-require-turtle-excluder-device-use-all-skimmer-trawl-vessels-40](https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/bulletin/noaa-issues-final-rule-require-turtle-excluder-device-use-all-skimmer-trawl-vessels-40).




## TED ENFORCEMENT BOARDING FORM

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 specifically listed on the form. **For full TED regulations, contact your local NOAA office at (228) 762-4591.**

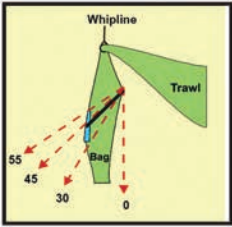
NMFS Ver. 1.6

TED Enforcement Boarding Form



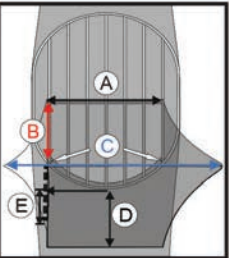
Date / Time				Federal Agency		NOAA OLE		GMT		USCG	
Vessel Name				State Agency							
Doc Number/ Reg.				Inspector							
COLREGS Line		Inshore      Offshore		Officer/ Witness							
Lat.      / Dockside		N.									
Long.      / Port		W.									

How to find angle



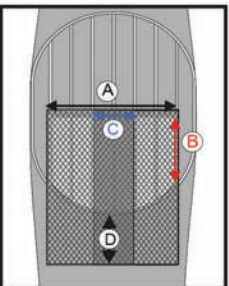
Grid Measurements	Port 1	Port 2	Stbd 1	Stbd 2
Angle (55° max)				
Bar Spacing (4" max)				
Grid length and width (32" min)				
Top shooter (TS) or bottom shooter (BS)				
SFSTCA Compliant (see 50 CFR 223.207 (a)(3)(ii))	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N
Do all bottom shooters have proper flotation? (If NO Explain in Comment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

Single cover (71") TED



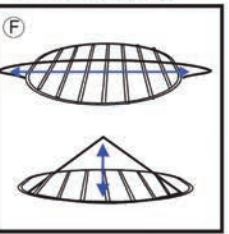
Opening and Flap Measurements (all stretched except D)				
Identify each TED as an Inshore, 71" or DC				
<b>A</b> Leading Edge of 71" must be ≥ 71".				
<b>A</b> Leading Edge DC must be ≥ 56".				
<b>B</b> Forward Cut of 71" must be ≥ 26".				
<b>B</b> Forward Cut of DC must be ≥ 20".				
<b>C</b> The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

Double Cover (DC) TED



Allowable Modifications				
Accelerator Funnel must stretch ≥ 71" on the 71"/ DC or ≥ 44" for 44" opening.				
Chafing gear for 71"/44" is the proper size, sewn along Leading Edge only. <b>Not allowed on DC</b>				

Inshore (44") TED



Comments:				
Captain's Name (print)		Signature		



## **SHRIMP AMENDMENT 18- MODIFYING THE SHRIMP EFFORT THRESHOLD**

Shrimp Amendment 18 increases the allowable shrimp trawl fishing effort in those areas within federal waters which are monitored for juvenile Red Snapper bycatch. The designated area in Shrimp Statistical Zones 10-21 (east of Pensacola to Texas) is located within federal waters at depths 10-30 fathoms. This amendment also reviews the shrimp fishery management plan framework procedure to allow changes to allowable fishing effort through an expedited process. This final rule went into effect March 9, 2020.

**For more information, visit the website [gulfcouncil.org/fishery-management/implemented-plans/shrimp/](https://gulfcouncil.org/fishery-management/implemented-plans/shrimp/).**



## COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN

### 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 and/or transport your catch out-of-state. 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. See example Mississippi trip ticket – single trip form on page 10. **If you sell your catch to anyone other than a licensed seafood dealer or processor and/or transport your catch out of state, you must fill out a trip ticket for each trip and submit it with your Monthly Submission Form.** See example trip ticket monthly submission form on page 11. Your reports are valuable to fisheries managers. The regulatory authority is provided below.

#### TITLE 22 PART 09 - RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR STATISTICAL REPORTING AND CONFIDENTIALITY OF STATISTICAL DATA FOR MARINE FISHERIES

##### IN THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

##### CHAPTER 05 FRESH PRODUCT PERMIT/SECONDARY FRESH PRODUCT PERMIT

**100** A licensed commercial fisherman may only sell to a seafood dealer/processor. A validly licensed commercial fisherman may sell only their catch to a consumer if they have in their possession a fresh product permit obtained from the MDMR. A secondary fresh product permit may be obtained from the MDMR for a commercial fisherman's spouse or family member that will allow them to sell their catch to consumers while the commercial fisherman continues to fish. There will be no fee for this permit

##### CHAPTER 06 SEAFOOD REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

**100** Each seafood dealer/processor is hereby required to complete Mississippi trip tickets provided by the MDMR. Commercial fishermen, who sell their catch to individuals other than a Mississippi dealer/processor or transport their catch out-of-state, are hereby required to complete Mississippi trip tickets provided by the MDMR and be in possession of a fresh product permit. A completed Mississippi trip ticket is only required for the initial point of sale of the seafood product. 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 trip ticket 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.

##### 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 or need help, please contact the Trip Ticket Office at 228-374-5000.**



[FORM 100]

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9																
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

Continuation Ticket No.

VESSEL NAME Mad Max

John Doe

7521234

		-				=		
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Primary Area Fished

Primary Gear Used 095

Fishing Time   :   Quantity of Gear 

# ABC Seafood

Transaction Date 02 / 06 / 14

County Landed 47

Dealer's Lic. or Fresh Product Permit No. 1000321

ITEM	<u>DEDUCTIONS</u>	COST

Total Paid

Modified 11/01/11

**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
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

To: 

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

No of tickets 

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

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

▲ Example of Monthly Trip Ticket

## 2020 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 online at [fisheries.noaa.gov/national/marine-mammal-protection/marine-mammal-authorization-program](https://fisheries.noaa.gov/national/marine-mammal-protection/marine-mammal-authorization-program).**

### NOAA's NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE (NMFS) 2020 MARINE MAMMAL AUTHORIZATION CERTIFICATE

#### Authorization:

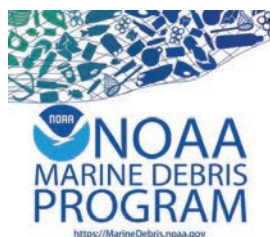
Pursuant to Section 118 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) (16 U.S.C. 1387), the implementing regulations at 50 CFR Part 229, and subject to the terms and conditions below, NMFS issues this Authorization Certificate, which, when presented in combination with a current and valid federal fishing 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.
- This certificate is valid from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020

## DERELICT TRAP REMOVAL PROGRAM FOR SHRIMPERS

This Derelict Trap Removal Program is being led by Mississippi State University (MSU) Extension Service, Mississippi Commercial Fisheries United (MSCFU), Mississippi Coalition for Vietnamese-American Fisher Folks & Families (MSCVAFF), and the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Marine Debris Program. The program was designed to encourage proper disposal year-round of derelict crab traps being trawled up by Mississippi shrimpers. Shrimpers that participate in the program can dispose of derelict traps that they encounter while shrimping in exchange for a reward. The program continues through January 2021. You can qualify for the program if you possess a current Mississippi shrimp license. There are four disposal locations along the coast.



For more information about this program, visit [coastal.msstate.edu/crab-traps](https://coastal.msstate.edu/crab-traps).

## BONNET CARRÉ 2019 FISHERIES DISASTER DECLARATION

On September 25, 2019, Secretary of Commerce Wilber Ross approved the Disaster Declaration for American Fishing Communities. For 2019, Congress appropriated \$165 million for fishery disasters. The Department of Commerce is still determining the appropriate allocations of these funds to eligible fisheries. MDMR is continuing to be in the process of working with the federal government to work towards the recovery of the 2019 Bonnet Carré fisheries disaster.



EMBRACE THE  
**GULF**  
**2020**

Embrace the Gulf 2020 is a campaign to raise awareness about one of our nation's greatest treasure: The Gulf of Mexico. Beginning January 1, 2020, residents of Mississippi are encouraged to commemorate the observance of the "Year to Embrace the Gulf."

**THE GOALS OF THE CAMPAIGN ARE TO PRESERVE AND PROMOTE THE GULF THROUGH FIVE DIFFERENCE FOCUS AREAS:**





ENHANCE • PROTECT • CONSERVE

## SHRIMP AND CRAB BUREAU

1141 Bayview Avenue  
Biloxi, Mississippi 39530

### STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

The Honorable Tate Reeves, *Governor*

### MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES

Joe Spraggins, *Executive Director*

### MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON MARINE RESOURCES

Mark H. Havard, II *Chairman*  
Recreational Sports Fishermen

Ronnie Daniels, *Vice Chairman*  
Charter Boat Operators

Natalie Guess  
Nonprofit Environmental  
Organizations

Richard Gollott  
Commercial Seafood Processors

Steve Bosarge  
Commercial Fishermen

### COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS?

Mississippi Department of Marine Resources  
Shrimp and Crab Bureau  
228.374.5000

### FOR INFORMATION ABOUT OPEN AND CLOSED AREAS, CALL THE SHRIMP HOTLINE

1.866.WE.TRAWL or 1.866.938.7295

