

Gulf & South Atlantic News

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THE NEW TED REGULATIONS— UNDERSTANDING WHAT'S DIFFERENT

NOAA Fisheries announced the publication of amended TED regulations Feb 20, 2003. The modifications which affect state and federal waters take effect April 15, 2003 in the Atlantic and six months after publication in the Gulf of Mexico.

The new rule includes an increase in the size of the escape opening, requiring the double cover flap TED or a TED opening of at least 71-inch straight line stretched mesh measurement in all offshore waters and the inshore and offshore waters of Georgia and South Carolina. A 44-inch straight-line mesh opening is required in all other inshore waters.

Hooped hard TEDs with a minimum inside horizontal width of 35" and inside vertical height of 30" on the front hoop, plus a 20" clearance between the bars and front hoop

may only be used in inshore waters except Georgia and North Carolina.

Grids must have a minimum outside measurement of 32" by 32" in all waters, and weedless TEDs must contain a brace bar. The Jones TED is disallowed, and accelerator funnels must have a 44" horizontal opening on the 44" TED, and a 71" opening on the 71" and

(continued on page 3, Federal Update— see **TED REGS**)



ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE APPROVED \$35M TO SOUTHERN SHRIMPERS

The Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic states have been slated to receive \$35 Million as part of a \$100 Million omnibus appropriation by Congress to the Department of Commerce.

The Title V money is for fisheries economic assistance and to be divided by region with each receiving \$17.5 Million. The distribution to states is based on each state's percentage of the 1999-2001 shrimp landings.

Each Gulf state is to retain 2% of funds for distribution of additional payments to fishermen with a demonstrated record of compliance with turtle excluder and bycatch reduction device regulations with the remaining funds used only for A) personal assistance with priority given to food, energy needs, transportation fuel, housing as-

istance, and other urgent needs; B) assistance for small businesses including fishermen, fish processors, and related businesses serving the fishing industry; C) domestic product marketing and seafood promotion, D) state seafood testing programs, E) development of limited entry programs, F) funding or other incentives to ensure widespread and proper use of turtle excluder devices and bycatch reduction devices in the fishery, and G) voluntary capacity reduction programs for shrimp fisheries under limited access.

NOAA Assistant Administrator of Fisheries, Dr. William Hogarth, recently met with industry leaders in North Carolina and in Charleston, SC. Part of these meetings was an effort to explain the current status of the SE shrimp fishery and outline the economic assistance program.

(See **ASSISTANCE FUNDS**, Federal Update pg 3)

G&SAFFI- FOUNDATION NEWS

82 GEAR REVIEW PANEL LEADS OFF FOUNDATION NEW YEAR

The official project title is “Enhancing Industry Contribution Towards Documentation of Fishing Effort and Bycatch Reduction in the Shrimp Fishery of the Southeastern United States-NA17FF2009”

We have begun working, coordinating, and supervising the latest project designed to look for more industry-developed Bycatch Reduction Device (BRD) designs. The first step in the process was to bring together a group of gear experts, fishermen, & others



for two days in Tampa.

New designs were discussed, along with the results of the Foundation’s prior BRD research project (GSAFFI #78– NA87FM0221). The goal of the panel was to try to find BRDs meeting the certification testing protocols.

FOUNDATION STAFF GEARS UP FOR PUBLIC PRESENTATION

The Foundation will take part in a public presentation designed to keep you informed of all accomplishments in our Gulf Oyster Project (GSAFF #81). A tentative date of May 9th and city, New Orleans, has been selected. Keep watching for more news on this exciting event!

COOPERATIVE RESEARCH

The Foundation submitted a proposal in

response to the Request for Proposals for the NOAA Cooperative Research Program. *A program to estimate sea turtle abundance and fishery related mortality along the northwestern Gulf of Mexico* will measure turtle abundance and effort to reassess the ‘effort term’ used in calculating CPUE. The project will convene a working group and use observers, similar to earlier Foundation ‘naked net’ programs, plus attempt to determine if bias exists in current CPUE estimations.

GSAFFI PROGRAM DIRECTOR APPOINTED TO AP POSITION

Geoffrey Lane, GSAFFI Program Director was appointed to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council’s Protected Resources Advisory Panel during late December 2002.

The Southern Shrimp Alliance Seeks Import Relief

The American shrimp industry is composed of thousands of industrious families and small business owners who work hard, play by the rules, and are the life-blood of thousands of small communities across eight southern states.

The dockside value of all U.S. shrimp is approximately 1/2 billion US Dollars, and 18% of total domestic commercial fisheries landings. Wholesale prices of 26/30 count white and brown have plunged more than \$2.00/lb, to the mid \$4.00 range in the past year– a 30% decline. A study by Texas A&M shows 2001 TX wholesale prices were 47% below the 1973-2001 average inflation-adjusted price, making the value of the 2001 harvest the lowest in 37 yrs!

The SSA is investigating possible illegal trade practices in several foreign countries– including import surges from all exporting countries, illegal subsidization by foreign governments, and dumping by foreign companies. Dumping results when producers sell their product in an export market at less than the same product is sold in the foreign country’s home market (or 3rd country). Since 2000, imports from large exporting countries have exploded. The Byrd Amendment allows US firms harmed by unfairly traded imports to receive a portion of the duties collected.



The industry is under severe pressure, as prices do not cover costs, allow for boat payments, or provide for families. “People cannot afford to shrimp at 1960s prices and pay 2003 costs. Every state has got the same problem. We are trying to save the shrimp industry. Right now, it’s on the verge of total extinction.” says SSA President Eddie Gordon.

Production yields are increased by using antibiotics that are banned by the FDA. Globally, antibiotic residues have been found in shrimp from many countries (Thailand, China, & Vietnam). After the European Union banned Thai shrimp imports in 2002, Thai exporters simply switched to the US– an open market with no tariffs on shrimp.

Producers and exporters from several Asian countries have raised money and hired US law firms to discourage and outright oppose potential trade action.

An estimated 200,000 or more jobs have been lost and many thousands have exited the industry entirely. Shrimp fishers have always been independent, resilient, and resourceful in sustaining their way of life. They are good stewards of a great naturally recurring resource. “The industry can only survive if all eight states work together,” says Ewell Smith, Executive Director of the Louisiana Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board.

2003 MEETINGS CALENDAR

MID-ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

www.mafmc.org

- May 6-8 Westin New York, New York City, NY
June 24-26 Sheraton Society Hill, Philadelphia, PA
August 5-7 Wyndham Hotel & Resort, Baltimore, MD
October 7-9 Ramada Inn/Outer Banks Resort,
Kill Devil Hills, NC
December 2-4 Sheraton Suites, Wilmington, DE

SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

www.safmc.noaa.gov

- June 16-20 Hilton C.B. Oceanfront, Cocoa Beach, FL
September 15-19 Pawley Plantation, Pawley's Island, SC
December 8-12 Blockade Runner Hotel
Wrightsville Beach, NC

GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

www.gulfcouncil.org

- May 12-15 Edgewater Bch Resort, Panama City Bch, FL
July 14-18 Naples Bch Hotel & Golf Club, Naples, FL
September 8-11 Baton Rouge Marriott, Baton Rouge, LA
November 10-14 Palace Casino Resort, Biloxi, MS

ATLANTIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

www.asmfmc.org

- June 9-12 Doubletree Crystal City, Arlington, VA
August 25-28 Doubletree Crystal City, Arlington, VA
December 14-18 Annual Meeting, Roosevelt Hotel New York
City, NY

GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

www.gsmfc.org

- April 2-3 Joint GSMFC/ASMFC Artificial reef sub-
committee meeting, Hilton Jacksonville
Riverfront, Jacksonville, FL

INTERSTATE SHELLFISH SANITATION CONFERENCE

www.issc.org

- August 9-15 Biennial Mtg, Portland Marriott Downtown
Portland, OR

GULF & SOUTH ATLANTIC STATES SHELLFISH CONFERENCE

www.FloridaAquaculture.com

- June 16-19 Annual Meeting at the Pier House Resort in
Key West, FL

FOUNDATION PROJECT MEETINGS

- April 15-16 Joint Industry/NMFS Workshop for project
#86- *TEDs, Sea Turtles, and the Shrimp
Industry of the Southeastern U.S. - An Update
is Needed* (NA17FM2815); Airport Hilton
Hotel, Tampa, FL
April 24-25 Cooperators Planning Meeting for project #81
Year II- *Integrated Oyster Market Research,
Product Development & Evaluation, Promo-
tion, & Consumer Education for the Gulf of
Mexico Oyster Industry* (R/LR-Q-23);
Tampa, FL location and time TBA and on
May 9 Public Meeting, Year I end, New Orleans, LA

NOAA-NMFS FEDERAL UPDATES

TED REGS (continued from page 1)

double cover flap TEDs.

Bait shrimp fishermen are required to use TEDs in states where a state-issued bait shrimp license holder can also fish for food shrimp from the same vessel.

There is also a requirement for tow time restrictions on try nets with headrope lengths of 12 feet or less.

The final rule will impact the Southeast trawl fishery primarily through the imposition of increased costs associated with the purchase and maintenance of the required gear and through lost revenue opportunities through potential increased shrimp losses associated with the gear. The objective of the rule is to decrease mortality of threatened and endangered sea turtles taken by shrimp trawl activity.

Currently, the Foundation is involved in meeting with fishermen who are affected by these new regulations. Foundation Coordinators Gary Graham and Lindsey Parker along with Richard Vendetti of the University of Georgia are making every effort to meet dockside with fishermen throughout the South Atlantic region. As part of a MARFIN cooperative agreement (NA17FF2867, GSAFFI #87- *Technology Transfer of new Turtle Excluder Device Modifications & Updated*



Bycatch Reduction Device Information to the Southeastern Shrimp Industry) they are meeting those affected by the new regulations to explain the changes & modifications needed to maintain compliance and demonstrate the installation of the new modifications. They will begin working in the Gulf of Mexico states when they finish the South Atlantic states.

ASSISTANCE FUNDS (continued from page 1)

Some states have already begun to develop plans for distribution of funds within their state.

At the Charleston meeting, Dr. Hogarth also announced that NMFS would not be taking a .65% rescission, thus slightly increasing the amount each state would ultimately receive. He also indicated that it would be up to industry and states to develop the qualifying criteria, develop appeal & review boards, and determine how the remainder of the funds should be spent.

RED SNAPPER

NOAA fisheries announced the commercial red snapper fishery for the Gulf of Mexico federal waters will open at Noon, local time, on April 1, 2003 and close at Noon, local time, on April 10, 2003. The 2003 Gulf red snapper quota is 4.65 million pounds with the commercial season divided into spring and fall seasons and a 15-inch minimum size limit.

G&SAFFI PROJECT UPDATES

GSAFFI #76 (NA87FM0221 YR III) "A Program to Improve Documentation of Fishing Effort in the Southeastern U.S. Shrimp Fishery and to Better Define Biological Parameters for the Red Snapper Stock Assessment Models— Phase 3"

Work continues on the project- *Assessment of Stock Structure and Female Effective Population Size of Red Snapper in the Northern Gulf of Mexico* by Dr. John Gold of Texas A&M University, College Station, TX is examining the red snapper population structure. He has completed two of the three tasks outlined in his proposal. The second project- *Fishery Independent Estimation of Abundance, Mortality, Age Frequency, and Growth Rates of Red Snapper— A Comparison Across Years, and New Estimates from Deeper Offshore "Longline" Areas* by Dr. Stephen Szedlmayer of Auburn University, Fairhope, AL is also underway. This project will generate data on growth, abundance, age frequency validation, and mortality rates of red snapper in the Gulf of Mexico. Last year's tropical storms forced a stoppage of work and turbid water conditions afterwards made the scuba visual surveys impossible. Also low water temperatures also delayed the scuba divers' return to work.

Observer sampling has been an integral part of this project, and continues. A 6-month extension has been requested to allow completion of contracted research, 150 sampling days remaining, plus completion of data entry, analysis, and review/assessment of research findings and public conference.

GSAFFI #78 (NA87FM0221 YR II- additional) "Enhancing Industry Contribution Towards Documentation of Fishing Effort and Bycatch Reduction in the Shrimp Fishing Industry and Documentation of Catch Composition of the Rock Shrimp Fishery of the Southeastern United States"

A final report for this grant is currently under review. A synopsis of this report was presented at the recently held Gear Review Panel for the next BRD testing project GSAFFI #82 (see next column).

GSAFFI #81 (Florida Sea Grant Award NA16RG1720 R/LR-Q-23) "Integrated Oyster Market Research, Product Development and Evaluation, Promotion, and Consumer Education Program for the Gulf of Mexico's Oyster Industry"

This unique project is a cooperative partnership between Sea Grant, the Foundation, FL Bureau of Seafood and Aquaculture Marketing, MS Department of Marine Resources, LA Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board, and the Gulf Oyster Industry.

During this last quarter, FL was able to participate in two trade shows. Future plans include conducting two focus

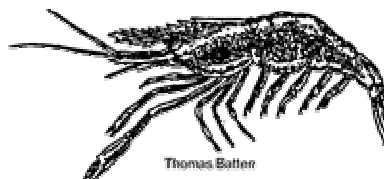
groups at American Culinary Federation meetings in Philadelphia and Charlotte under contract with Gerard Murphy.

MS-DNR has completed a videotape of different Post Harvest Processing (PHP) methods and are currently processing and reviewing profiling and sensory evaluation survey results for gathering baseline data to compare consumer attitudes between raw/ PHP oysters. Mississippi State University is performing the economic benchmarking research.

The Oyster Task Force of the Louisiana Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board has developed a new oyster product program promotion brochure and will assist the Foundation with coordination of the public conference tentatively scheduled to be held in New Orleans on May 9, 2003.

The Gulf Oyster project website was successfully launched in early January. Visitors to the website can get information, recipes, and a newsletter about Gulf Oysters. Check it out at www.gulfoysters.net.

It has been necessary to request a 3-month no-cost extension (thru 6/30/03) on Year I of the oyster project. This will allow time for project completions and coordination of the Public conference. To avoid delays in start-up of Year II, the Foundation will also hold a planning session April 24-25th in Tampa to discuss the Conference, current project status, and goals and objectives for Year II of this project.



GSAFFI #82 (MARFIN NA17FF2009) "Enhancing Industry Contribution Towards Documentation of Fishing Effort and Bycatch Reduction in the Shrimp Fishery of the Southeastern United States"

A Gear Review Panel was selected and met mid-February in Tampa. The GSAFFI Executive Director, Program Director, and Coordinators participated as well as representatives of academia, industry, and NOAA-NMFS. Twelve designs or modifications were selected for testing and we are still currently seeking new industry developed designs in addition to candidates currently under development. If you have or know of someone that has a design that could be tested, please contact the Foundation office as soon as possible for more information. A summary of the panel meeting and recommendations will be available on the Foundation website.

GSAFFI #84 (NA17FD2367) "Development of a Vessel Buyout Business Plan for the Southeastern US. Commercial Shark Fishery"

(Continued on page 5)

MORE NEWS FROM THE FOUNDATION

(Continued from page 4)

Two proposals were submitted in response to our Request For Proposals (RFP) for this project. Each proposal has been reviewed for consideration by the NMFS technical monitor and selected reviewers. Both proposals have been selected and contracts have been awarded.



GSAFFI # 85 (NA16FM2817 Year IV) “*A Fresh Look at the Combined Effects of Consumer Flavor Preferences, the Impacts of Imports, and Benthic Habitats on the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Shrimp Fisheries*”

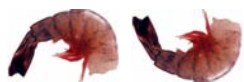
This is a project to look at the impacts of imported shrimp on the domestic industry. The labs at Texas A&M University have been subcontracted to do the organoleptic studies—determining if consumers prefer domestic, wild-caught Gulf shrimp to freshwater farm-raised imports. A grass-roots educational campaign will promote Gulf shrimp. An examination of how imports have affected processors and updating an economic survey are also scheduled. Benthic habitat mapping for comparing shrimp abundance with habitat profiles will round out the remainder of priorities for this project. A RFP has been prepared for release during March 2003.

GSAFFI # 86 (NA17FM2815) “*TEDS, Sea Turtles and the Shrimp Fishery of the Southeast U.S.— An Update is Needed*”

This project consisted of compiling a database defining turtle interactions, TEDs being used, and regional sea turtle abundance for comparison to shrimp trawling effort. The characterization of shrimping restrictions, reconciliation, and analysis of all proposed data sets has been completed. As soon as the sea turtle trawl study is completed, a study plan for effort estimation will be developed. An industry/NMFS workshop has been scheduled at the Tampa, FL Airport Hilton on April 15-16, 2003.

GSAFFI #87 (MARFIN NA17FF2867) “*Technology Transfer of New Turtle Excluder Device Modifications and Updated Bycatch Reduction Device Information to the Southeastern Shrimp Industry*”

Performance of this project has begun with Foundation Coordinators meeting with NMFS personnel in early February. Formal workshops and dockside visits are currently underway. The Atlantic coast has been divided into three areas— North Carolina, South Carolina/Georgia, and Florida, with Foundation Coordinators Gary Graham & Lindsey Parker and Richard Vendetti of the University of Georgia visiting those affected by the new regulations. A similar scheme will be used for the Gulf region, but since the new turtle regulations will take effect April 15th in the South Atlantic, early priority is being given to those areas.



Gulf Shrimp— The ultimate feast



Here is a quick and easy recipe for times when you are on the go!

BLACKENED BUTTERFLY SHRIMP

De-head and shell about 6-8 large shrimp per person. I prefer to use 15-20 size, but smaller ones will do— you'll just have to do more per person. Leave the tail scales on— it makes for a nicer presentation. With a sharp knife, carefully devein and butterfly the shrimp meat and rinse in cool water. Butterfly by using your sharp knife to cut lengthwise starting at the head end and stopping just short of the tail where you left the shell. Follow the shallow channel where the vein previously sat, and try to not cut all the way through the meat. Once all the shrimp are cut, generously spray each with a bottled butter spray. In a small plastic bag, toss in 2 tablespoons of blackened fish seasoning. I like Zatarain's blackened fish seasoning, but sometimes use my own mixture. My “Rub-Me-Tender” recipe is below if you'd like to try it.

This is important! Don't skip this step! Turn your stove fan on high and open the doors for ventilation. Shake your buttered shrimp in the seasoning bag until coated. Heat a cast iron frying pan or wok until hot, then add 2-4 tablespoons

butter. When your butter just begins to turn brown, quickly but lightly place your shrimp in the hot butter. With practice, you'll be able to get most of the shrimp in with the tails standing before the smoke gets too thick. If you are cooking more than 2-4 servings, I find it best to clean the pan between cooking and repeat the heating/melting butter steps. Turn the shrimp around to get all sides equally blackened. Remove from the heat as soon as all sides are done. The paprika in the seasoning should give you a nice black coating. Serve over a bed of rice with hot steamed broccoli, a garden salad, and a Chardonnay.

RUB ME TENDER

In a mixing bowl add and mix 2 tablespoons each of the following: black, white, and finely ground red pepper. Add 3 tablespoons of paprika, plus one garlic powder, & lemon pepper. Start with one teaspoon salt, add more to taste. Be careful not to make it too salty. You should be able to just taste the salt, and it's okay to make it less salty as some people add salt to their food before tasting. Store mixture in a dry, airtight container. Use as a rub for meats like chicken or ribs before grilling on the barbecue too!

Approximate nutritional values per serving: calories 297, calories from fat 135, total fat 15g, saturated fat 8g, cholesterol 290mg, total carbohydrate 5g, protein 35g (Nutrition info: www.fl-seafood.com)



Lincoln Center, Suite 997
 5401 W. Kennedy Blvd.
 Tampa, FL 33609-2467

COUNCIL UPDATES/ UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

SOUTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL

The final rule for implementing rock shrimp Amendment 5 to the shrimp FMP was published in January. Effective July 15th, a limited access endorsement is required to fish for or possess rock shrimp in the south Atlantic EEZ off FL and GA with open access permits required off NC and SC. Effective May 16th, any person operating a vessel fishing for or possessing rock shrimp must have an operator permit card plus one other form of ID. A licensed operator is required on board after May 15th. Vessels are also required to have a NMFS-approved VMS when fishing beginning Oct 14th.

GULF OF MEXICO COUNCIL

This past January, the Gulf Council recommended maintaining the closure for 2003 in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) off Texas after hearing an update on the conditions of the Texas shrimp industry, a biological review of the Texas shrimp stocks, an economic analysis of the 2001 Texas closure, and public com-

ments.

APRIL 2003

- 8-9 Atlantic Loggerhead Turtle Recovery Team Stakeholders meeting, NOAA Headquarters- Science Center, Silver Spring, MD
- 9 Gulf of Mexico FMC Public Hearing for Reef Fish Amendment #21; 7:00-10:00PM, Airport Hilton; Tampa, FL
- 13-17 National Shellfisheries Association Annual Meeting, Doubletree Hotel, New Orleans, LA
- 15-16 Joint Industry/NMFS meeting for GSAFFI project #86, NA17FM2815, TEDs, Sea Turtles and the Shrimp Fishery of the Southeast U.S.– An update is needed. At the Airport Hilton in Tampa, FL
- 24-25 Planning meeting for Year II of Project #81, RLRQ23, Integrated Oyster Market Research Product Development Promotion, and Consumer Education Program

for the Gulf of Mexico's Oyster Industry. Tampa, FL location and time TBA

MAY 2003

- 2-4 American Shrimp Processors 39th Annual Convention, Grand Hotel Marriott, Point Clear, AL
 - 2-4 Florida Shrimp Festival, Fernandina Beach, FL
 - 9 Foundation-sponsored public meeting for Year 1 ending of Project #81, RLRQ23; New Orleans, LA Location and time TBA
 - 12-16 Gulf of Mexico FMC meets at the Edgewater Beach Resort, Panama City Bch, FL
 - 28-30 Southeastern Fisheries Association 51st Annual Convention, Cocoa Beach, FL
- ### **JUNE 2003**
- 16-19 Gulf and South Atlantic States Shellfish Conference, Pier House Resort; Key West, FL
 - 16-20 South Atlantic FMC meets at the Hilton Cocoa Beach Oceanfront,