NOTICE OF OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET ACTION

Date 03/26/2012

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
FOR CERTIFYING OFFICIAL: Simon Szykman
FOR CLEARANCE OFFICER: Diana Hynek

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, OMB has taken action on your request received 01/24/2012

ACTION REQUESTED: Extension without change of a currently approved collection
TYPE OF REVIEW REQUESTED: Regular
ICR REFERENCE NUMBER: 201201-0648-007
AGENCY ICR TRACKING NUMBER:
TITLE: Southeast Region Bycatch Reduction Device Certification Family of Forms
LIST OF INFORMATION COLLECTIONS: See next page

OMB ACTION: Approved without change
OMB CONTROL NUMBER: 0648-0345
The agency is required to display the OMB Control Number and inform respondents of its legal significance in accordance with 5 CFR 1320.5(b).

EXPIRATION DATE: 03/31/2015 DISCONTINUE DATE:

BURDEN:	RESPONSES	HOURS	COSTS
Previous	2,615	70	639
New	2,615	70	639
Difference			
Change due to New Statute	0	0	0
Change due to Agency Discretion	0	0	0
Change due to Agency Adjustment	0	0	0
Change Due to Potential Violation of the PRA	0	0	0

TERMS OF CLEARANCE:

OMB Authorizing Official: Kevin F. Neyland
Deputy Administrator,
Office Of Information And Regulatory Affairs

List of ICs			
IC Title	Form No.	Form Name	CFR Citation
Application/vessel information form and gear specification form	NA	Observer Training Manual Forms - bycatch subset - with current expiration date	
Station sheet evaluation form, species characterization form and length frequency form	NA	Observer Training Manual - bycatch forms subset (with current expiration dates)	
Condition and fate form	NA	Observer Training Manual - bycatch forms subset - with current expiration dates	
Trip report/cover sheet	NA	Observer Training Manual - bycatch forms subset - with current expiration dates	
Independent BRD tests - duplication/mailing			50 CFR 622.41

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT SUBMISSION

Please read the instructions before completing this form. For additional forms or assistance in completing this form, contact your agency's Paperwork Clearance Officer. Send two copies of this form, the collection instrument to be reviewed, the supporting statement, and any additional documentation to: Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Docket Library, Room 10102, 725 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20503.

1. Agency/Subagency originating request
DOC/NOAA/NMFS

2. OMB control number
a. 0648 - 0345
b. [ ] None

3. Type of information collection (*check one*)
a. [ ] New Collection
b. [ ] Revision of a currently approved collection
c. [✔] Extension of a currently approved collection
d. [ ] Reinstatement, without change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired
e. [ ] Reinstatement, with change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired
f. [ ] Existing collection in use without an OMB control number
For b-f, note Item A2 of Supporting Statement instructions

4. Type of review requested (*check one*)
a. [✔] Regular submission
b. [ ] Emergency - Approval requested by ____/____/____
c. [ ] Delegated

5. Small entities
Will this information collection have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities? [ ] Yes [✔] No

6. Requested expiration date
a. [✔] Three years from approval date b. [ ] Other Specify:____/____

7. Title
Southeast Region Bycatch Reduction Device Certification

8. Agency form number(s) (*if applicable*)

9. Keywords
Fisheries

10. Abstract

Persons seeking to obtain certification for bycatch devices to use in shrimp vessels, in the Gulf of Mexico or South Atlantic, must apply for authorization to conduct tests and submit the test results. The information is needed for National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to determine if the equipment meets the standard that would allow its use in commercial fisheries.

11. Affected public (*Mark primary with "P" and all others that apply with "x"*)
a. x Individuals or households
b. p Business or other for-profit
c. ___ Not-for-profit institutions
d. ___ Farms
e. ___ Federal Government
f. ___ State, Local or Tribal Government

12. Obligation to respond (*check one*)
a. [ ] Voluntary
b. [✔] Required to obtain or retain benefits
c. [ ] Mandatory

13. Annual recordkeeping and reporting burden
a. Number of respondents: 32
b. Total annual responses: 2,615
1. Percentage of these responses collected electronically: 0 %
c. Total annual hours requested: 70
d. Current OMB inventory: 70
e. Difference: 0
f. Explanation of difference
1. Program change: ____
2. Adjustment: ____

14. Annual reporting and recordkeeping cost burden (*in thousands of dollars*)
a. Total annualized capital/startup costs: 0
b. Total annual costs (O&M): 1
c. Total annualized cost requested: 1
d. Current OMB inventory: 1
e. Difference: 0
f. Explanation of difference
1. Program change: ____
2. Adjustment: ____

15. Purpose of information collection (*Mark primary with "P" and all others that apply with "X"*)
a. ___ Application for benefits
b. ___ Program evaluation
c. ___ General purpose statistics
d. ___ Audit
e. ___ Program planning or management
f. x Research
g. x Regulatory or compliance

16. Frequency of recordkeeping or reporting (*check all that apply*)
a. [✔] Recordkeeping
b. [ ] Third party disclosure
c. [✔] Reporting
1. [✔] On occasion 2. [ ] Weekly 3. [ ] Monthly
4. [ ] Quarterly 5. [ ] Semi-annually 6. [ ] Annually
7. [ ] Biennially 8. [ ] Other (describe) ____

17. Statistical methods
Does this information collection employ statistical methods
[ ] Yes [✔] No

18. Agency Contact (person who can best answer questions regarding the content of this submission)
Name: Rich Malinowski
Phone: (727) 824-5305

19. Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions

On behalf of this Federal Agency, I certify that the collection of information encompassed by this request complies with 5 CFR 1320.9

NOTE: The text of 5 CFR 1320.9, and the related provisions of 5 CFR 1320.8(b)(3), appear at the end of the instructions. *The certification is to be made with reference to those regulatory provisions as set forth in the instructions.*

The following is a summary of the topics, regarding the proposed collection of information, that the certification covers:

(a) It is necessary for the proper performance of agency functions;

(b) It avoids unnecessary duplication;

(c) It reduces burden on small entities;

(d) It used plain, coherent, and unambiguous terminology that is understandable to respondents;

(e) Its implementation will be consistent and compatible with current reporting and recordkeeping practices;

(f) It indicates the retention period for recordkeeping requirements;

(g) It informs respondents of the information called for under 5 CFR 1320.8(b)(3):

- (i) Why the information is being collected;
- (ii) Use of information;
- (iii) Burden estimate;
- (iv) Nature of response (voluntary, required for a benefit, mandatory);
- (v) Nature and extent of confidentiality; and
- (vi) Need to display currently valid OMB control number;

(h) It was developed by an office that has planned and allocated resources for the efficient and effective management and use of the information to be collected (see note in Item 19 of instructions);

(i) It uses effective and efficient statistical survey methodology; and

(j) It makes appropriate use of information technology.

If you are unable to certify compliance with any of the provisions, identify the item below and explain the reason in Item 18 of the Supporting Statement.

Signature of Senior Official or designee	Date

Agency Certification (signature of Assistant Administrator, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Line Office Chief Information Officer, head of MB staff for L.O.s, or of the Director of a Program or StaffOffice)	
Signature signed by Alan Risenhoover	Date 1/11/2012
Signature of NOAA Clearance Officer	
Signature signed by Sarah Brabson	Date 1/12/2012

SUPPORTING STATEMENT
SOUTHEAST REGION BYCATCH REDUCTION DEVICE CERTIFICATION
FAMILY OF FORMS
OMB CONTROL NO. 0648-0345

A. JUSTIFICATION

1. Explain the circumstances that make the collection of information necessary.

The legislative authority to collect data from the various sectors of the economy that harvest marine resources in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) is the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976 (Magnuson-Stevens Act), as amended. Amendment 9 (71 FR 18139) to the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for the Shrimp Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico and Amendment 2 (62 FR 18536) to the FMP for the Shrimp Fishery of the South Atlantic require the use of certified bycatch reduction devices (BRD) in all penaeid shrimp trawls in the EEZ of both regions. Both amendments also contain a framework procedure for establishing and modifying the BRD testing protocol, for certifying BRD and their specifications. Regulations governing this collection are at 50 CFR 622.41. Amendment 6 (70 FR 733383) to the South Atlantic FMP turned this testing authority over to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

Trawling, in the Gulf of Mexico shrimp fisheries, results in large amounts of finfish being discarded dead. Impacts of bycatch and discards are: significant biological waste, biological overfishing of target and bycatch species, economic losses in finfish fisheries, modification of biological community structure, and possible unacceptable mortality of threatened, or endangered species. The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council is concerned about the magnitude of bycatch of overfished species in shrimp trawls. The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council prepared Amendment 9 to reduce the adverse impacts of shrimp trawls and thereby assist in the recovery of these resources.

Shrimp fishermen in the affected EEZ areas are required to use BRD that have been approved by NMFS. The development of BRD is a dynamic process. As fishermen and other people become more knowledgeable about the behavior of fish in shrimp trawls, they will develop new ideas on ways to reduce the incidental catch of different species of concern while minimizing the loss of shrimp.

In 2008, NMFS implemented new regulations revising and consolidating the BRD Testing Protocol Manuals of both regions, resulting in a single, unified procedure for the Gulf and South Atlantic. The rule specifies that a person who proposes a BRD for certification must test such BRD and submit the results to the Regional Administrator (RA) in accordance with the Bycatch Reduction Device Testing Protocol Manual, which contains the testing protocol and the specific reporting requirements for the test results. The South Atlantic protocol has the same wording as the Gulf protocol, which identifies that, certified observers would be used. The protocol lists qualifications that an observer must meet - not how they are trained and certified. The BRD testing manual contains the protocol that researchers must use to test the effectiveness of any new or modified BRD in reducing bycatch of finfish. It describes the experimental design and basic data requirements. Standardized forms for describing the tests and reporting their results

are specified in the manual. Appendices to the manual contain data entry codes, illustrations of fish measurements, statistical reporting zones, proper statistical analytical techniques, illustrations of key species, and other information concerning the proper conduct of testing, including data management instructions.

Any BRD that is eligible for NMFS certification must be shown to reduce the weight of finfish caught by at least 30 percent. To get a BRD certified, an individual would submit the results of BRD certification trials directly to NMFS. Such submissions would be evaluated by NMFS with the RA making the final decision on BRD certification pursuant to the certification criterion, testing protocol, and terms of the FMP.

The RA will advise the applicant, in writing, if a BRD is not certified. This notification will explain why the BRD was not certified and what the applicant may do to modify the BRD or the testing procedures to improve the chances of having the BRD certified in the future. If certification was denied because of insufficient information, the applicant will have 60 days from receipt of such notification to provide the additional information; afterwards, the applicant would have to reapply. If the RA subsequently certifies the BRD, the RA would announce the certification in the Federal Register, amending the list of certified BRD.

Upon certification, it is anticipated that the manufacturers of the BRD candidates may seek patents or copyrights for the designs. Proceeds from the sale of the certified BRD should more than offset any costs associated with the development of the device.

2. Explain how, by whom, how frequently, and for what purpose the information will be used. If the information collected will be disseminated to the public or used to support information that will be disseminated to the public, then explain how the collection complies with all applicable Information Quality Guidelines.

Submission of an application to test BRD in the EEZ to the RA begins the formal process that will either lead to the certification or rejection of the BRD candidate for use in the shrimp fisheries. Any person wishing to evaluate a BRD candidate must provide the RA with an application letter, explaining the basis for the test, as well as a completed Appendix A (vessel information form). If the RA approves the request, the RA will issue a letter exempting the applicant from the regulations requiring that certified BRD be installed in all nets. In addition to the Vessel Information form, the Gear Specification form will be filled out at the beginning of each test. During the test, the Station Sheet BRD Evaluation Form and Length Frequency Form will be filled out during each test trawl effort. These forms are completed by a Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC) approved observer, and later signed by the vessel captain, indicating he concurs that the data contained on the forms is an accurate representation of the text.

A summary of the information required in the Bycatch Reduction Device Testing Protocol Manual follows:

Appendix A. Application To Test A Bycatch Reduction Device. This form provides vessel information, applicant information, owner/operator information, and lease information for any applicant desiring to test a BRD.

Appendix B and C. Gear Specification Form. This form contains the detailed information on the shrimp trawl, BRD and turtle excluder device (TED) for use in configuring the trawl and its components. Trip number, vessel, tow number, data, net position and control/experimental net provide the detailed information for identifying the specific tows in the test. Net type and measurements provide the detailed information for the size of the trawl. Leg line data provides information on the cables that connect to the doors. Twine, mesh and other gear measures provide the technical information for key parts of the trawl and associated components including the actual location of the BRD on the trawl. These data elements provide the technical information that net makers will use to construct the approved gear and NMFS will use to prepare the regulations.

Appendix D. Station Sheet BRD Evaluation Form. This form provides the key information on whether the BRD candidate will meet or exceed the required reduction in juvenile red snapper bycatch mortality and the associated loss in shrimp. For the control and test trawls, information such as the tow number, observer, date, time in, latitude in, longitude in, depth, hours towed, vessel speed, statistical zone, operational code, total nets, BRD net position, and control net position are required to describe the test procedures to ensure that the testing protocol is being followed correctly. Data from the control and test trawls such as the total weight of the catch, total shrimp weight, total weight and number of red snapper, number of red snapper greater than and less than 100 mm provide the necessary information for the determining the ability of the BRD to exclude red snapper and the associated loss in shrimp. Information such as comments provides additional data used to understand the results. The captain's signature provides the official results. This form is completed during the test.

Appendix E. Length Frequency Form. The focus of this activity is on red snapper, king mackerel and Spanish mackerel. Red snapper is overfished and the subject of a rebuilding schedule. King mackerel and Spanish mackerel are the subject of scientific investigation to determine what role the incidental catch in shrimp trawls has on the status of these important species. Data such as the trip number, vessel code, tow number, net position and control or test net provide the key organization elements for recording the data on fish lengths. The length of a fish is the most important element in determining the impact of the shrimp trawls (and, therefore, shrimp fleets) on these species. This form is completed during the test.

Appendix F. Species Characterization Form. This form is used to record the information on the species caught in the test and control trawls. Specific information on how to record the information is in appendix E. The data will be used to assess the environmental impact of the BRD on the species found in the Gulf of Mexico.

Appendix G. Condition and Fate. Information on the condition and fate of turtles observed during testing.

Appendix H. Trip Report/Cover Sheet Form. This form is placed on the top of the completed trip data forms and provides general information about the vessel, time at sea, tow time, gear, and turtle data. This form provides background information on the vessel, its owner, and codes (trip number, vessel, and tow number) for identifying the test. Data such as the date of the test, name of the observer, vessel name, vessel identification number, owner name, and owner address are used to identify the respondent and the legal entity controlling the testing practices of the vessel. This latter requirement is essential in monitoring the compliance of the testing protocol.

Information such as the year built, vessel type, hull material, gross tonnage, engine horsepower, and crew size, provide information used to calculate the ability of the vessel to catch shrimp. NMFS will print most of this information on this form, the sponsor will review and add his/her required information such as the Captain's or owner's signature. This information is completed at the start of the test.

Observer Qualifications

An observer must have a Bachelor's degree in fisheries biology or closely related field from an accredited college, have at least six months experience working with a university, college, state fisheries agency, NMFS, or private research organization such as the Gulf and South Atlantic Fisheries Foundation as an observer on a trawler (including research trawlers) in the Southeast Region, or have successfully completed a training course conducted or approved by the Director of the NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center. Observers will be state or federal employees or contracted observers working for another institution such as a university and assigned as needed.

3. Describe whether, and to what extent, the collection of information involves the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological techniques or other forms of information technology.

The Southeast Region's Web site allows the public to view the manual for BRD testing. The Web site provides a suitable mechanism for dissemination of information via downloading of the manual. However, due to the complex nature of the testing and application process, the forms are not available on the Web site. Otherwise, no improved information technology has been identified as a practical means for reducing the burden on the public. The SEFSC has been involved in the testing process to assist and ensure the quality of the test. The information can be viewed at:
http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sf/pdfs/Revisions%20to%20BRD%20and%20Testing%20Protocalls%20FR.pdf

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication.

The Magnuson-Stevens Act's operational guidelines require each FMP to evaluate existing state and Federal laws that govern the fisheries in question, and the findings are made part of each FMP. Each Fishery Management Councils membership is comprised of state and Federal officials responsible for resource management in their area. These two circumstances identify other collections that may be gathering the same or similar information. Data submitted to NMFS for BRD certification in Federal waters will be provided upon request to states so that the BRD can be certified in state waters. Similarly, data which are collected by or submitted to the states for BRD certification in state waters may be used by NMFS for Federal certification.

Each state in the region has an independent BRD testing procedure. Data collected for or by the state for their independent certification program is not part of the burden in this collection although that data may be used for federal certification. Burden time for the state to reproduce the data and forward it to NMFS is included in this submission. Burden time for a state to collect data under federal grant specifically to be submitted to NMFS for federal certification is part of this collection.

5. If the collection of information involves small businesses or other small entities, describe the methods used to minimize burden.

Because all applicants are considered small businesses, separate requirements based on size of business have not been developed. Only the minimum data to meet the analytical needs of the BRD testing protocols are requested from all applicants.

6. Describe the consequences to the Federal program or policy activities if the collection is not conducted or is conducted less frequently.

Reporting is at the request of the respondent. If this collection is not approved, there will be no procedure for approving new BRD developed by the shrimp industry or NMFS.

7. Explain any special circumstances that require the collection to be conducted in a manner inconsistent with OMB guidelines.

The collection is consistent with the guidelines.

8. Provide information on the PRA Federal Register Notice that solicited public comments on the information collection prior to this submission. Summarize the public comments received in response to that notice and describe the actions taken by the agency in response to those comments. Describe the efforts to consult with persons outside the agency to obtain their views on the availability of data, frequency of collection, the clarity of instructions and recordkeeping, disclosure, or reporting format (if any), and on the data elements to be recorded, disclosed, or reported.

A Federal Register Notice published on August 19, 2011 (76 FR 51944) solicited public comments. No comments were received.

9. Explain any decisions to provide payments or gifts to respondents, other than remuneration of contractors or grantees.

There are no payments or gifts to respondents.

10. Describe any assurance of confidentiality provided to respondents and the basis for assurance in statute, regulation, or agency policy.

All data that are submitted are treated as confidential in accordance with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Administrative Order 216-100. Assurance is given on instruction sheets in the Bycatch Reduction Device Testing Manual.

A Privacy Act System of Records Notice for all NMFS Sustainable Fisheries Permits was published on April 17, 2008 (73 FR 20914) and became effective June 11, 2008 (73 FR 33065).

11. <u>Provide additional justification for any questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private</u>.

No questions of a sensitive nature are asked.

12. <u>Provide an estimate in hours of the burden of the collection of information</u>.

The estimated number of applicants is 28 per year (plus an additional 4 – see end of this burden estimate description). As described in the response to Question 2, the observers complete all documents other than the application letter and vessel information form and the gear specification form. Forms completed by the observer require only a signature from the respondent.

1. The reporting requirements for the BRD testing protocols consist of completing a vessel information form, a gear specification form, a station sheet BRD evaluation form, a length frequency form, a condition and fate form and conducting the test.

a. The estimated time to complete an application letter and vessel information form is 30 minutes; the gear specification form is 30 minutes**, a total of 14 hours for each** form (28 x 0.30).

b. The station sheets will require 2 hours per trip or a total of 14 hours (captain's signature is the only burden; at 1 minute per signature, the burden for 28 forms is 28 minutes**;** 30 tows with one form per tow = 30 x 28 x 1 minute/60 minutes = **14 hours**).

c. The species characterization form, again counting captain's signature only, adds **14 hours**: at 1 minute per signature, the burden for 28 forms is 28 minutes**;** 30 tows with one form per tow = 30 x 28 x 1 minute/60 minutes = **14 hours.**

d. The length frequency form, again counting captain's signature only, adds **14 hours**: at 1 minute per signature, the burden for 28 forms is 28 minutes**;** 30 tows with one form per tow = 30 x 28 x 1 minute/60 minutes = **14 hours**.

e. The condition and fate form, providing biological data, is completed upon sighting of a sea turtle, which is estimated to occur on about 25 per cent of the tests – in this case, 7 trips (7/28 = 0.25) – for a total of **7 minutes** (1 minute each for captain's signature).

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2. The estimated time to complete one Trip Report/Cover Sheet for each trip = 1 minute for the captain's signature, or **28 minutes**.

In addition, we expect four independent BRD tests to be performed under the state programs per year, for an additional four respondents. The burden time associated with reproducing the test information and results is estimated at 5 minutes per application, or **20 minutes**.

The total time for all items above is (5 x 14 hours) + 7 minutes + 28 minutes + 20 minutes = 70 hours and 55 minutes, or 71 hours *(rounded down to 70 hours in ROCIS in last submission, so we are counting the official burden as 70).*

Requirement	Respondents	Responses	Response Time (Hours)	Burden Time (Hours)
Application/Vessel Information Form	28	28	30 min.	14
Gear Specification Form	28	28	30 min.	14
Station Sheet BRD Evaluation Form	28	840	1 min.	14
Species Characterization Form	28	840	1 min.	14
Length Frequency Form	28	840	1 min.	14
Condition and Fate Form	28	7	1 min.	7 minutes
Trip Report/Cover Sheet	28	28	1 min.	28 minutes
Independent BRD tests (duplication/mailing)	4	4	5 min.	20 minutes
TOTALS	**32**	**2,615**		**71 (rounded down to 70)**

The costs associated with completing the forms: 70 hours x $15/hour = $1,050.

13. Provide an estimate of the total annual cost burden to the respondents or record-keepers resulting from the collection (excluding the value of the burden hours in Question 12 above).

The cost of duplication and mailing reports is $22.78 per federally tested applicant: 28 x $22.78 = $637.84. For the four sets of independent tests, the cost is 0.29, totaling $1.16. The overall total is $639.

A third party agent provides observers. Observers will be state or federal employees or contracted observers working for another institution such as a university. No cost is thus associated with the observer.

14. Provide estimates of annualized cost to the Federal government.

Tasks, e.g. review of forms submitted, are covered under normal duties of staff. Re cost of observers: observers may be NMFS employees, state employees (including university personnel), or employees/contractors of private organizations. The cost of the observer is paid by the observer provider, either through normal employment (wage/salary), or more likely from a research grant from either a state/federal/private source.

15. Explain the reasons for any program changes or adjustments.

There are no changes or adjustments.

16. For collections whose results will be published, outline the plans for tabulation and publication.

Results will not be published except for the list of BRD that have been certified.

17. <u>If seeking approval to not display the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection, explain the reasons why display would be inappropriate</u>.

Not applicable.

18. <u>Explain each exception to the certification statement</u>.

Not applicable.

B. COLLECTIONS OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS

This collection does not use statistical methods.

COVER SHEET

TRIP NUMBER: _____

VESSEL NAME: _____

DATES OF TRIP: _____

OBSERVER NAME: _____

NUMBER OF TOWS/SETS SAMPLED: _____

OBSERVER SUBMITTING DATA: _____

DATE SUBMITTED TO LAB: ____/____/_____

OBSERVER DATA PROOFS:

DATE 1ST COMPLETE PROOF WAS COMPLETED ____/____/_____

DATE 2ND SCAN PROOF WAS COMPLETED ____/____/_____

OBSERVER SIGNATURE: _____

TRIP COMPLETION FORM

Trip #: _____ **Observer:** _____ **Vessel:** _____

Trip Summary - Describe trip chronologically from the time it was assigned until you return home or you receive another assignment.

_____

_____

_____

_____

Date and Location, data sheets were initially completed

_____ / _____ / _____ _____

Date **Location** (i.e. on boat, in motel, or home)

1st complete proof **2nd complete proof** (scan for blanks and flow)

_____ / _____ / _____ _____ / _____ / _____

Date **Date**

Note: You should be proofing as the trip progresses, but that does not constitute a "complete" proof. A complete proof should be done after all of the data sheets have been completed.

Photocopies of trip completed **Data sent to Coordinator/Field Coordinator**

_____ / _____ / _____ _____ / _____ / _____

Date **Date**

Note: Always retain all photocopies until observer coordinator gives the okay to destroy.

_____ _____

Method of Shipping **Who was the data shipped to? (Coordinator/Field Coordinator)**

	Circle One	If No, explain:
Data sheets signed by captain	Y / N	_____
Receipts completed and signed	Y / N	_____
Two complete proofs	Y / N	_____
Trip copy made	Y / N	_____
All data represented on data sheets is in log book	Y / N	_____
All "required" data sheets completed	Y / N	_____
New species flagged	Y / N	_____
Turtles flagged?	Y / N	_____
Pictures included with data set?	Y / N	_____

OBSERVER FEEDBACK FORM

Vessel Name / I.D. #: _____ Trip # _____

Observer: _____ Date: _____

Sleeping Accommodations: _____

_____

_____

Shower: Yes No _____

Toilet: Yes No _____

Air Conditioning: Yes No

Food and Water: _____

_____

Sampling Advice: _____

_____

_____

_____

General Comments: _____

_____

_____

_____

Close Calls / Near misses / Hazards experienced: _____

_____

_____

_____

SAFETY CHECKOFF FORM

Observer Name _____ Trip Number _____

Vessel Name _____ Vessel Number _____

Safety Check list (Offshore 20+ Miles)

USCG Safety Exam Decal # _____ Date issued: _____ Distance Rating: _____

Life Saving Equipment

Life Raft? _____ Type _____ Inspection Date: _____ Capacity? _____

Life Raft Hydrostatic Release Expiration Date: _____ Total # of People Onboard: _____
(This number is including the Observer)

EPIRB Location: _____ EPIRB Battery Expiration Date: _____

EPIRB Hydrostatic Release Expiration Date: _____

Personal Flotation Device for each person on board (POB)? _____ Location(s): _____

Immersion Suit for each POB? _____ (only required above 32'00 N latitude)

Orange Ring Buoy(s) with Line attached? _____ Location(s): _____

Distress Flares? _____ Location(s): _____

Expiration Date for each distress flare.

Parachute _____	Smoke _____	Hand _____	Hand _____
Parachute _____	Smoke _____	Hand _____	Hand _____
Parachute _____	Smoke _____	Hand _____	Hand _____

Fire Fighting Equipment Fire Extinguishers Charged? _____

Location 1: _____ Location 3: _____

Location 2: _____ Location 4: _____

Communication Equipment Vessel Call Letters: _____

Single Side Band _____ Satellite Phone # (if applicable) _____

VHF _____ Vessel Cell Phone # (if applicable) _____

Other First Aid Kit? _____ Location(s): _____

Ditch Bag? _____ Location(s): _____

Detailed Description of Vessel and Comments: _____

_____

_____

_____

SAFETY CHECK OFF FORM
STATION BILL

Trip # _____

	Person Overboard Signal:	Fire Signal:	Flooding Signal:	Abandon Ship Signal:
Position	**Station/Bring/Duty**	**Station/Bring/Duty**	**Station/Bring/Duty**	**Station/Bring/Duty**
Captain				
Crew				
Crew				
Crew				
Observer				
Date performed				

Vessel Safety Orientation (check all performed)

Vessel Layout:

Engine on/off, steering, gear selection, etc. _____
Shut off and crossover valves. _____
Alarms: what they are, what they mean, reporting inoperative alarms. _____
Entrapment: exit routes. _____
Hazards: hatches, winches, machinery, lines, slippery areas, stability concerns, etc. _____

Emergency Assignments (not on the Station Bill): Each Crew Member's Specific Duties In

Launching survival craft and recovering life boats and rescue boats. _____
Donning immersion suits and wearable PFDs. _____
Making a voice radio distress call. _____
Using visual distress signals. _____
Activating the general alarm. _____

Pre-Trip Safety Skill(s)

At least once per month and before each new departure, one safety skill/assignment must be performed and logged. In the space below list the skill (s) performed and/or include safety assignment, then sign and date at the bottom.

To be completed by captain:

Sampling protocol has been explained by observer and is understood. Yes ____ No ____

Observer Signature and Date: _____ / /

Captain Signature and Date: _____ / /

OMB No. 0648 - 0345 Approval Expires - 01/31/2012

VESSEL INFORMATION FORM

ORG PRO			MO DY YR	MO DY YR
TRIP NO.	VESSEL CODE	OBSERVER	DATE: START OF TRIP	DATE: END OF TRIP

VESSEL NAME: _____

OBSERVER NAME: _____

VESSEL ID # _____ VESSEL LENGTH (ft): _____ YEAR VESSEL BUILT: _____

VESSEL TYPE (CIRCLE ONE): FREEZER or ICE BOAT

MATERIAL OF HULL CONSTRUCTION (CIRCLE ONE): STEEL WOOD FIBERGLASS FIBERGLASS/WOOD

GROSS TONNAGE: _____ HORSEPOWER OF ENGINE: _____

CREW SIZE (WITHOUT CAPTAIN): _____

OWNER NAME: _____

OWNER ADDRESS: _____

_____

CAPTAIN'S NAME: _____

OWNER'S OR CAPTAINS SIGNATURE: _____

TRIP REPORT - SHRIMP BY-CATCH

TRIP # _____

VESSEL NAME _____ ID # _____ (CG DOCUMENTATION #) VSCODE _____ LTH _____ (LENGTH)

PORT OF DEPARTURE _____ (STATE) / _____ (CITY)

OBSERVER NAME _____ ORGANIZATION _____

TRIP DATES _____ (MTH/DAY) - _____ (MTH/DAY) _____ (YEAR) OBSERVER DAYS _____

(dates, total # of travel and sea days allotted for this trip)

DATES AT SEA _____ (MTH/DAY) - _____ (MTH/DAY) _____ (YEAR) SEA DAYS _____

(dates, total # of days at sea from port to port)

24 HR. DAYS FISHED (including tows not sampled)

TOTAL TIME (hours towed) _____ / 24 = _____

STARTING TOW # _____

ENDING TOW # _____

(DO NOT INCLUDE TOWS NOT SAMPLED)

AVERAGE TOW TIME

TOT.TIME HOURS TOWED [SAMPLED] (1)

TOT.TIME HOURS TOWED [UNSAMPLED] (2)

TOT.# TOWS SAMPLED (3)

TOT.# TOWS UNSAMPLED (4)

(1) (2) (3) (4)

(_____+_____)/(_____+_____) = _____

GEAR CONFIGURATION (MAIN NETS)

NET #1 TED _____	BRD _____	APPLICABLE
NET #2 TED _____	BRD _____	TOW #S
NET #3 TED _____	BRD _____	
NET #4 TED _____	BRD _____	_____
NET #1 TED _____	BRD _____	APPLICABLE
NET #2 TED _____	BRD _____	TOW #S
NET #3 TED _____	BRD _____	
NET #4 TED _____	BRD _____	_____

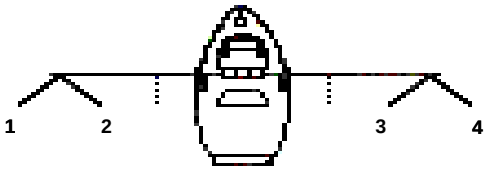
(ENTER N/A FOR NET #s 1 & 4 IF ONLY TWO NETS ARE PULLED BY YOUR BOAT)

TRY NET

HRL _____ NET# _____ (Location)

FRL _____ APPLICABLE TOW #S _____

CIRCLE TRY NET LOCATION ON DIAGRAM



AREAS FISHED

STAT.AREA #						
INSHORE						
NEARSHORE ≤ 60'						
OFFSHORE > 60'						

(ENTER APPLICABLE STATISTICAL AREA # THEN THE # OF TOWS "SAMPLED" IN THE APPROPRIATE ZONE BLOCK)

TURTLES CAPTURED

	SPECIES	NET #/TYPE *	LAT/LONG	DATE	TOW #
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					

TURTLES SIGHTED

	SPECIES	LAT/LONG	DATE
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			

*(ST-STANDARD NET, TB-NET WITH TED AND BRD, T-NET WITH TED ONLY, B-NET WITH BRD ONLY, TR-TRY NET)

SIGNATURE _____

TRIP REPORT - SHRIMP BY-CATCH
TOWS NOT SAMPLED

VSCODE _____ TRIP DATES _____ TRIP # _____

(A TOW WITH AN OPERATION CODE SHOULD NOT BE LISTED AS UNSAMPLED)

NO.	DATE	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	DEPTH (FEET)	HOURS TOWED	REASON NOT SAMPLED
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						
11						
12						
13						
14						
15						
16						
17						
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39						
40						
41						
42						
43						
44						
45						

TRIP REPORT - SHRIMP BY-CATCH

SAMPLED TOW LOG

TRIP # _____

DATE	TOW #	TIME IN	TIME OUT	HOURS TOWED	DEPTH (FEET)	STAT ZONE	EXP NP	CONT NP

GEAR SPECIFICATION FORM
BRD TESTING PROTOCOL

OMB No. 0648 - 0345 Approval Expires - 01/31/2012

Gear ID #

Control (C) or Experimental (E)

ORG PRO — TRIP NO. — VESSEL — TOW NO. — MO DY YR DATE — NET POSITION

SECTION I — NET GEAR MEASUREMENTS

NET TYPE AND HEAD/FOOT ROPE MEASUREMENTS

Net Type

Headrope Length . Feet

Footrope Length . Feet

Comments

LEG LINE MEASUREMENTS

Top Leg Length . Feet

Bottom Leg Length . Feet

Top Leg Dummy . Feet

Bottom Leg Dummy . Feet

TRAWL BODY

Type: Nylon Poly Sapphire Spectra

Mesh Size . Inches

Comments

TRAWL EXTENSION

Type: Nylon Poly Sapphire Spectra

None

Mesh Size . Inches

Comments

COD END

Type: Nylon Poly Sapphire Spectra

Mesh Size . Inches Twine Size

Comments

CHAFFING GEAR

Type Whiskers Mesh Metal

Comments

TICKLER CHAIN

Chain Length . Feet

Chain Size (gauge) . Inches

Comments

DOORS

Type: Aluminum Wood Steel Other

Door Length . Feet

Door Height . Feet

Dummy Door Length . Feet

Comments

LAZY LINE

Rigging: Elephant Ears Choke

Comments

SECTION II — BRD MEASUREMENTS

BRD TYPE: Fisheye Jones Davis Modified Jones Davis

Extended Funnel Composite Other

BRD position: Top Offset Spooker Cone: Yes or No

Codend length (# of meshes):

Circumference of the codend (# of meshes):

Distance of escape opening from elephant ear or choke rings: Feet Inches

Distance of escape opening from tie off rings: Feet Inches

Number of meshes the fisheye is offset from top center

Fisheye (BRD) escape opening: Height . Inches Width . Inches

Shape of the escape opening: oval, diamond, square, halfmoon, rectangle, triangle, if other

Specify

(check one)

Look from the mouth of the net, is the BRD located in front of, at, or behind the point of attachment of the elephant ears: **Front** at **Behind**

What is the length of the elephant ear from the point of attachment to the tip of the ring: Inches

Distance from point of attachment of elephant ear to tie off rings Feet Inches

TED/BRD SPECIFICATION FORM
BRD TESTING PROTOCOL

OMB No. 0648 - 0345 Approval Expires - 01/31/2012

ORG PRO	TRIP NO.	VESSEL	TOW NO.	MO DY YR DATE	NET POSITION	GEAR ID #

SECTION III TED MEASUREMENTS

TED TYPE ☐ SOFT ☐ HARD

TED DESIGN (Circle one) WEEDLESS CURVED BAR STRAIGHT BAR UNKNOWN

TED OPENING ☐ TOP ☐ BOTTOM

TED FUNNEL (YES OR NO) ☐ **TED MATERIAL** ☐

TED FLAP (YES OR NO) ☐ **# OF TED FLOATS** ☐

TED ANGLE (DEGREES) ☐ **FLOAT TYPE** Material: Shape:

TED DIMENSIONS LENGTH (INCHES) ☐ WIDTH (INCHES) ☐

GEAR DESCRIPTIONS

BRD DESCRIPTION

BRD DIAGRAM

Sketch fisheye including height and width (on the back of this form) or attach cardboard outline (if possible).

GEAR DESCRIPTION

GEAR DIAGRAM

PHOTOGRAPHED (Circle one): Y or N

TRY NET TOW SUMMARY BRD/CHARACTERIZATION

TRIP # VESSEL CODE

TRY NET HEADROPE LENGTH (feet) . TRY NET FOOTROPE LENGTH (feet) .

TRY NET TED TYPE (IF PRESENT)

STATION TOW # STAT. ZONE CHECK ONE: ____ INSHORE ____ NEARSHORE ____ OFFSHORE

TRY NET TOW #	TIME IN	TIME OUT	TURTLE (X)	TRY NET TOW #	TIME IN	TIME OUT	TURTLE (X)

COMMENTS:

STATION TOW # STAT. ZONE CHECK ONE: ____ INSHORE ____ NEARSHORE ____ OFFSHORE

TRY NET TOW #	TIME IN	TIME OUT	TURTLE (X)	TRY NET TOW #	TIME IN	TIME OUT	TURTLE (X)

COMMENTS:

STATION TOW # STAT. ZONE CHECK ONE: ____ INSHORE ____ NEARSHORE ____ OFFSHORE

TRY NET TOW #	TIME IN	TIME OUT	TURTLE (X)	TRY NET TOW #	TIME IN	TIME OUT	TURTLE (X)

COMMENTS:

STATION TOW # STAT. ZONE CHECK ONE: ____ INSHORE ____ NEARSHORE ____ OFFSHORE

TRY NET TOW #	TIME IN	TIME OUT	TURTLE (X)	TRY NET TOW #	TIME IN	TIME OUT	TURTLE (X)

COMMENTS:

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STATION SHEET BRD EVALUATION
BRD TESTING PROTOCOL

Station ID#

ORG PRO
TRIP NO.

VESSEL

TOW NO.

OBSERVER

MONTH DAY YEAR
START DATE

TIME IN

DEGREE MINUTE SECONDS
LATITUDE IN

DEGREE MINUTE SECONDS
LONGITUDE IN

DEPTH IN (FEET)

MONTH DAY YEAR
STOP DATE

TIME OUT

DEGREE MINUTE SECONDS
LATITUDE OUT

DEGREE MINUTE SECONDS
LONGITUDE OUT

DEPTH OUT (FEET)

HOURS TOWED

KNOTS
VESSEL SPEED

STAT ZONE

1 2 3 4
OPERATION CODE

TOTAL NETS

SEA STATE

NET RETRIEVAL DIRECTION
Up (U), Down (D), or Cross (C) Sea

SCALE TYPE
Digital (D), Mechanical (M), Both (B) or Unknown (U)

COORDINATOR COMMENTS

Gear ID#
NET POSITION

EXPERIMENTAL (E), or CONTROL (C).

BRD OPEN or BRD CLOSED (circle one)

SAMPLE WEIGHT (kg)

TOTAL CATCH WEIGHT (kg)

SHRIMP TOTAL WEIGHT (kg)

SHRIMP
HEAD ON (O), HEAD OFF (X)

Attach length frequency form for red snapper

RED SNAPPER TOTAL WEIGHT (kg)

RED SNAPPER TOTAL NUMBER

NO. OF RED SNAPPER ≤ 100 mm

NO. OF RED SNAPPER > 100 mm

Comments: _____

Gear ID#
NET POSITION

EXPERIMENTAL (E), or CONTROL (C).

BRD OPEN or BRD CLOSED (circle one)

SAMPLE WEIGHT (kg)

TOTAL CATCH WEIGHT (kg)

SHRIMP TOTAL WEIGHT (kg)

SHRIMP
HEAD ON (O), HEAD OFF (X)

Attach length frequency form for red snapper

RED SNAPPER TOTAL WEIGHT (kg)

RED SNAPPER TOTAL NUMBER

NO. OF RED SNAPPER < 100 mm

NO. OF RED SNAPPER > 100 mm

Comments: _____

Characterization sample completed? **YES (Attach species forms).** **NO**

Captain's Signature _____

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CONDITION & FATE FORM
BRD TESTING PROTOCOL

ORG PRO

TRIP NO. VESSEL TOW NUMBER

CONTROL or EXPERIMENTAL — CIRCLE ONE	NET POSITION	CONTROL or EXPERIMENTAL — CIRCLE ONE	NET POSITION

CONDITION AND FATE OF BYCATCH PRIOR TO DISCARDING

Check the appropriate boxes.

FISH		FISH	
MORE THAN 50% OF CATCH ALIVE		MORE THAN 50% OF CATCH ALIVE	
MORE THAN 50% OF CATCH DEAD		MORE THAN 50% OF CATCH DEAD	
NOT DETERMINED (CATCH NOT DUMPED)		NOT DETERMINED (CATCH NOT DUMPED)	
NOT OBSERVED		NOT OBSERVED	
COMMENTS:		COMMENTS:	

INVERTEBRATES		INVERTEBRATES	
MORE THAN 50% OF CATCH ALIVE		MORE THAN 50% OF CATCH ALIVE	
MORE THAN 50% OF CATCH DEAD		MORE THAN 50% OF CATCH DEAD	
NOT DETERMINED (CATCH NOT DUMPED)		NOT DETERMINED (CATCH NOT DUMPED)	
NOT OBSERVED		NOT OBSERVED	
COMMENTS:		COMMENTS:	

PREDATORS OBSERVED

Refer to the table and choose the appropriate number code for each predator type.

PREDATORS OBSERVED				PREDATORS OBSERVED			
SHARKS		OTHER FISH		SHARKS		OTHER FISH	
DOLPHINS		SEA BIRDS		DOLPHINS		SEA BIRDS	
COMMENTS:				COMMENTS:			

0 = Predator not present in area.
1 = Predator observed but "not" feeding on organisms exiting BRD.
2 = Predator observed "feeding" on organisms exiting BRD.
3 = Predator observed but couldn't determine (or could not see) if they were feeding on organisms exiting BRD.
9 = Not determined (Observer was not able to check for predator).

ESTIMATED # OF ORGANISMS SEEN EXITING BRD DURING NET RETRIEVAL

Check the appropriate boxes.

(1 - 10)		NONE		(1 - 10)		NONE	
(10 - 50)		N/A (BRD Closed)		(10 - 50)		N/A (BRD Closed)	
(50 - 100)		NOT OBSERVED (or not able to see.)		(50 - 100)		NOT OBSERVED (or not able to see.)	
(100 OR MORE)				(100 OR MORE)			
COMMENTS:				COMMENTS:			

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SPECIES CHARACTERIZATION FORM
BRD TESTING PROTOCOL

ORG PRO

TRIP NO. | VESSEL | TOW NUMBER | NET POSITION | Control (C) or Experimental (E)

COMMON NAME	GENUS	SPECIES	NUMBER	SAMPLE WEIGHT (kg)	SELECT WEIGHT (kg)
BROWN SHRIMP	FARFANT	AZTECU		.	.
WHITE SHRIMP	LITOPEN	SETIFE		.	.
PINK SHRIMP	FARFANT	DUORAR		.	.
PENAEUS DISCARD	PENAEUS	DISCAR		.	.
CRABS, LOBSTERS, ETC.	CRUSTAC		1	.	.
OTHER INVERTEBRATES	INVERTE		1	.	.
BLACKNOSE SHARK	CARCHAR	ACRONO		.	.
SPINNER SHARK	CARCHAR	BREVIP		.	.
FINETOOTH SHARK	CARCHAR	ISODON		.	.
BLACKTIP SHARK	CARCHAR	LIMBAT		.	.
ATLANTIC SHARPNOSE SHARK	RHIZOPR	TERRAE		.	.
BONNETHEAD SHARK	SPHYRNA	TIBURO		.	.
SMOOTH DOGFISH SHARK	MUSTELU	CANIS		.	.
FLORIDA SMOOTHHOUND SHARK	MUSTELU	NORRIS		.	.
LEMON SHARK	NEGAPRI	BREVIR		.	.
OTHER SHARKS NOT LISTED	CARCHAR			.	.
TROUT	CYNOSCI			.	.
SNAPPER (OTHER)	LUTJANU			.	.
LANE SNAPPER	LUTJANU	SYNAGR		.	.
CROAKER	MICROPO	UNDULA		.	.
SOUTHERN FLOUNDER	PARALIC	LETHOS		.	.
BLACK DRUM	POGONIA	CROMIS		.	.
COBIA	RACHYCE	CANADU		.	.
VERMILLION SNAPPER	RHOMBOP	AURORU		.	.
RED DRUM	SCIAENO	OCELLA		.	.
SPOTTED SEATROUT	CYNOSCI	NEBULO		.	.
KING MACKEREL	SCOMBER	CAVALL		.	.
SPANISH MACKEREL	SCOMBER	MACULA		.	.
LONGSPINE PORGY	STENOTO	CAPRIN		.	.
OTHER FINFISH-GROUPED	PISCES		1	.	.
DEBRIS	DEBRIS		1	.	.
DOMINANTS / OTHER NOT LISTED					
				.	.
				.	.
				.	.
				.	.
				.	.

PAGE _____ OF _____

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SPECIES CHARACTERIZATION FORM - MODIFIED SOUTH ATLANTIC PENAEID SHRIMP

ORG PRO TRIP NO. VESSEL TOW NUMBER NET POSITION Control (C) or Experimental (E)

COMMON NAME	GENUS	SPECIES	NUMBER	SAMPLE WEIGHT (kg)	SELECT WEIGHT (kg)
BROWN SHRIMP	FARFANT	AZTECU		.	.
WHITE SHRIMP	LITOPEN	SETIFE		.	.
PINK SHRIMP	FARFANT	DUORAR		.	.
PENAEUS DISCARD	PENAEUS	DISCAR		.	.
BLUE CRAB	CALLINE	SAPIDU		.	.
CRABS, LOBSTERS, ETC.	CRUSTAC		1	.	.
CANNONBALL JELLYFISH	STOMOLO	MELEAG		.	.
JELLYFISH FAMILY	CARYBDE		1	.	.
OTHER INVERTEBRATES	INVERTE		1	.	.
STAR DRUM	STELLIF	LANCEO		.	.
ATLANTIC MENHADEN	BREVOOR	TYRANN		.	.
SHAD	ALOSA			.	.
SPINNER SHARK	CARCHAR	BREVIP		.	.
SILKY SHARK	CARCHAR	FALCIF		.	.
FINETOOH SHARK	CARCHAR	ISODON		.	.
BLACKTIP SHARK	CARCHAR	LIMBAT		.	.
ATLANTIC SHARPNOSE SHARK	RHIZOPR	TERRAE		.	.
BONNETHEAD SHARK	SPHYRNA	TIBURO		.	.
SMOOTH DOGFISH SHARK	MUSTELU	CANIS		.	.
SCALLOPED HAMMERHEAD SHARK	SPHYRNA	LEWINI		.	.
OTHER SHARKS NOT LISTED	CARCHAR			.	.
SPOTTED SEATROUT	CYNOSCI	NEBULO		.	.
SILVER SEATROUT	CYNOSCI	NOTHUS		.	.
WEAKFISH (GRAY TROUT)	CYNOSCI	REGALI		.	.
SEATROUT (GENUS)	CYNOSCI			.	.
SPOT	LEIOSTO	XANTHU		.	.
ATLANTIC CROAKER	MICROPO	UNDULA		.	.
SOUTHERN KINGFISH	MENTICI	AMERIC		.	.
NORTHERN KINGFISH	MENTICI	SAXATI		.	.
RED DRUM	SCIAENO	OCELLA		.	.
BLACK DRUM	POGONIA	CROMIS		.	.
COBIA	RACHYCE	CANADU		.	.
SOUTHERN FLOUNDER	PARALIC	LETHOS		.	.
SUMMER FLOUNDER	PARALIC	DENTAT		.	.
KING MACKEREL	SCOMBER	CAVALL		.	.
SPANISH MACKEREL	SCOMBER	MACULA		.	.
SCUP	STENOTO	CHRYSO		.	.
GAG	MYCTERO	MICROL		.	.
BLACK SEABASS	CENTROP	STRIAT		.	.
BANK SEABASS	CENTROP	OCYURO		.	.
ROCK SEABASS	CENTROP	PHILAD		.	.
FLORIDA POMPANO	TRACHIN	CAROLI		.	.
BLUEFISH	POMATOM	SALTAT		.	.
STURGEON	ACIPENS			.	.
OTHER FINFISH-GROUPED	PISCES		1	.	.
DEBRIS	DEBRIS		1	.	.

PAGE _____ OF _____

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SPECIES CHARACTERIZATION FORM - MODIFIED SOUTH ATLANTIC ROCK SHRIMP

ORG PRO TRIP NO. VESSEL TOW NUMBER NET POSITION Control (C) or Experimental (E)

COMMON NAME	GENUS	SPECIES	NUMBER	SAMPLE WEIGHT (kg)	SELECT WEIGHT (kg)
ROCK SHRIMP	SICYONI			.	.
ROCK SHRIMP CULL	SICYONI	DISCAR		.	.
BROWN SHRIMP	FARFANT	AZTECU		.	.
WHITE SHRIMP	LITOPEN	SETIFE		.	.
PINK SHRIMP	FARFANT	DUORAR		.	.
PENAEUS DISCARD	PENAEUS	DISCAR		.	.
IRIDESCENT SWIMMING CRAB	PORTUNU	GIBBES		.	.
LONGSPINE SWIMMING CRAB	PORTUNU	SPINIC		.	.
CRABS, LOBSTERS, ETC.	CRUSTAC		1	.	.
OTHER INVERTEBRATES	INVERTE		1	.	.
DUSKY FLOUNDER	SYACIUM	PAPILL		.	.
INSHORE LIZARDFISH	SYNODUS	FOETEN		.	.
SHAD	ALOSA			.	.
SPINNER SHARK	CARCHAR	BREVIP		.	.
SILKY SHARK	CARCHAR	FALCIF		.	.
FINETOOH SHARK	CARCHAR	ISODON		.	.
BLACKTIP SHARK	CARCHAR	LIMBAT		.	.
ATLANTIC SHARPNOSE SHARK	RHIZOPI	TERRAE		.	.
BONNETHEAD SHARK	SPHYRNA	TIBURO		.	.
SMOOTH DOGFISH SHARK	MUSTELU	CANIS		.	.
SCALLOPED HAMMERHEAD SHARK	SPHYRNA	LEWINI		.	.
OTHER SHARKS NOT LISTED	CARCHAR			.	.
SPOTTED SEATROUT	CYNOSCI	NEBULO		.	.
SILVER SEATROUT	CYNOSCI	NOTHUS		.	.
WEAKFISH (GRAY TROUT)	CYNOSCI	REGALI		.	.
SEATROUT (GENUS)	CYNOSCI			.	.
SPOT	LEIOSTO	XANTHU		.	.
ATLANTIC CROAKER	MICROPO	UNDULA		.	.
SOUTHERN KINGFISH	MENTICI	AMERIC		.	.
NORTHERN KINGFISH	MENTICI	SAXATI		.	.
RED DRUM	SCIAENO	OCELLA		.	.
BLACK DRUM	POGONIA	CROMIS		.	.
COBIA	RACHYCE	CANADU		.	.
SOUTHERN FLOUNDER	PARALIC	LETHOS		.	.
SUMMER FLOUNDER	PARALIC	DENTAT		.	.
KING MACKEREL	SCOMBER	CAVALL		.	.
SPANISH MACKEREL	SCOMBER	MACULA		.	.
SCUP	STENOTO	CHRYSO		.	.
GAG	MYCTERO	MICROL		.	.
BLACK SEABASS	CENTROP	STRIAT		.	.
BANK SEABASS	CENTROP	OCYURO		.	.
ROCK SEABASS	CENTROP	PHILAD		.	.
FLORIDA POMPANO	TRACHINO	CAROLI		.	.
BLUEFISH	POMATOM	SALTAT		.	.
STURGEON	ACIPENS			.	.
OTHER FINFISH-GROUPED	PISCES		1	.	.
DEBRIS	DEBRIS		1	.	.

PAGE _____ OF _____

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SPECIES CHARACTERIZATION FORM
SHRIMP CHARACTERIZATION

ORG PRO

TRIP NO. | VESSEL | TOW NUMBER | NET POSITION

	COMMON NAME	GENUS	SPECIES	NUMBER	SAMPLE WEIGHT (kg)	SELECT WEIGHT (kg)
1					.	.
2					.	.
3					.	.
4					.	.
5					.	.
6					.	.
7					.	.
8					.	.
9					.	.
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26					.	.
27					.	.
28					.	.
29					.	.
30					.	.
31					.	.
32					.	.
33					.	.
34					.	.
35					.	.
36					.	.
37					.	.
38					.	.
39					.	.

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LENGTH FREQUENCY FORM (TARGET SPECIES)
BRD TESTING PROTOCOL

ORG PRO

TRIP NO.

VESSEL

TOW NUMBER

NET POSITION

Control (C) or Experimental (E)

GENUS

SPECIES

MEAS.CODE

GENUS

SPECIES

MEAS.CODE

GENUS

SPECIES

MEAS.CODE

	LENGTH (MM)	LENGTH (MM)	LENGTH (MM)
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			
14			
15			
16			
17			
18			
19			
20			
21			
22			
23			
24			
25			
NUMBER OF BROKEN (UNMEASURABLE)			

PAGE _____ OF _____

SEA TURTLE LIFE HISTORY FORM

REEF AND SHRIMP

1_10

SECTION 1 - BOTH

Trip Number ☐☐☐☐☐☐ MO DY YR ___/___/___ Set/Tow ☐☐☐ ☐ Station ☐ Non-Station ☐ Captured ☐ Sighted Specimen # By Trip ☐☐☐

Vessel ☐☐☐ Observer ☐☐☐ State ☐☐ Time (24 hr) ☐☐:☐☐ Water Depth (ft.) ☐☐☐.☐ Photos Y/N ☐ Number ☐☐

LATITUDE ☐☐ deg ☐☐ min ☐☐ sec LONGITUDE ☐☐ deg ☐☐ min ☐☐ sec

SPECIES IDENTIFICATION:

☐ Leatherback ☐ Loggerhead ☐ Kemp's Ridley
☐ Green ☐ Hawksbill ☐ Olive Ridley ☐ Unidentified Hardshell ☐ Unknown

CONDITION OF TURTLE AT CAPTURE:

☐ Previously Dead ☐ Fresh dead/Comatose/Unresponsive (detail reflex response p. 2)
☐ Alive Attempted resuscitation? Y / N
☐ Unknown (describe) ☐ Other (describe in comments section)

INJURY STATUS:

☐ Uninjured
☐ Injured
☐ Unknown

Gear Type: ☐ Longline ☐ Gill Net ☐ Trawl ☐ Bandit Reel ☐ Handline ☐ Fish Trap ☐ Spear Fishing

Gear Depth: ☐ Surface ☐ Midwater ☐ Bottom ☐ Other _____

Did turtle slide out/escape from gear? Y / N Was turtle brought on board? Y / N

SECTION 2 - SHRIMP

Net Position ☐ Net Type Turtle Captured In: ☐ Try Net ☐ Standard Net Net Modifications: ☐ TED ☐ TED/BRD ☐ None ☐ Unknown

Check one to describe turtle interaction with TED:

☐ Turtle caught before TED ☐ Turtle went through TED grid ☐ Not Applicable ☐ Unknown

Tow Time (check one): ☐ Try Net ☐ Standard Net

Start Date	Time In	Stop Date	Time Out	Hours Towed
___/___/___	☐☐:☐☐	___/___/___	☐☐:☐☐	= ☐☐.☐

SECTION 3 - REEF FISH

IF GEAR IS A FORM OF HOOK AND LINE, COMPLETE THIS SECTION, AS APPLICABLE:

Hook Type: ☐ "J" ☐ Circle ☐ other (describe) _____ SIZE ☐☐ /0

Manufacturer/Style No. _____ DEGREE OFFSET ☐☐°

Bait: ☐ Squid ☐ Mackerel ☐ Sardine ☐ Unknown ☐ Other (describe) _____ SIZE _____

HOOK LOCATION: ☐ Not Hooked ☐ Not Known if Hooked ☐ Hooked, but location totally Unknown

(Circle specific location; check box is specifics are not known; annotate drawing on reverse to indicate location as needed)

Internal: ☐ Unknown, internal
☐ Swallowed (Esophagus) Hook visible? ☐ Visible to insertion point ☐ Partial hook ☐ Not visible
☐ Beak/Mouth Jaw Location (check one): ☐ upper ☐ lower ☐ side (mouth only)
Check one for mouth: ☐ tongue ☐ glottis ☐ soft palate ☐ jaw joint ☐ other (describe)

External: ☐ Unknown, external ☐ Beak/Head/Neck ☐ Carapace/Plastron
☐ Front Flipper/Shoulder/Armpit ☐ Rear flipper/Groin/Tail

Was hook removed from this animal? Y / N / Unknown / Not Applicable

Was animal entangled in gear? At capture? Y / N / Unknown At Release? Y / N / Unknown

How much gear (linear feet) was left on the turtle when released? ☐☐☐.☐ ft. (estimated/measured)

SECTION 4 - BOTH

BIOLOGICAL INFORMATION

Trip # _____ Set/Tow _____ Specimen # _____

Estimated carapace length (notch-to-tip straight line): ☐☐.☐ **ft.** (needed only if turtle is not boated & measured)

DIMENSIONS (cm):	Curved (measuring tape) Standard Measurements		Straight Line (calipers) Standard Measurements		Straight Line (calipers)	
Carapace Length	☐☐☐.☐	Notch-to-Tip	☐☐☐.☐	Notch-to-Tip	☐☐☐.☐	Notch-to-Notch
Carapace Width	☐☐☐.☐		☐☐☐.☐			

TAGS (Identify address on each tag in the comments section):

Flipper Tag Number	Metal (1) or Plastic (2)	Position (Flipper) LF, RF, LR, RR	Already Present (1) or Applied by Observer (2)	Were Tags Removed?
☐☐☐☐☐☐	☐	☐☐	☐	Y / N
☐☐☐☐☐☐	☐	☐☐	☐	Y / N
☐☐☐☐☐☐	☐	☐☐	☐	Y / N
☐☐☐☐☐☐	☐	☐☐	☐	Y / N
PIT Tag ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐		☐☐	☐	**Scanned?** Y / N

(Put PIT tag label here)

Living Tag Yes/No (describe) _____ **Other Tags (describe)** _____

BIOPSY SAMPLED TAKEN? **Y** (itemized below) / **N** / **U**nsuccessful (if yes, USFWS 3-177 form may be needed)

Y / N Did observer assist in dehooking, resuscitation, etc. (other than standard measurements, etc.). Address in Comments.

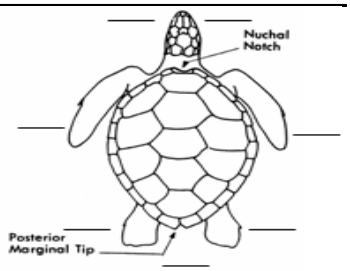
RELEASE INFORMATION: **TIME (24hr)** ☐☐:☐☐ **DATE** ____/____/____ (MO DY YR)

LATITUDE ☐☐ deg ☐☐ min ☐☐ sec **LONGITUDE** ☐☐ deg ☐☐ min ☐☐ sec

FINAL DISPOSITION: ☐ **Discarded Marked Dead/Unresponsive Carcass** ☐ **Discarded Unmarked Dead/Unresponsive Carcass**

☐ **Salvaged Carcass/Part** (explain) ☐ **Released Alive** ☐ **Taken to Holding Facility** ☐ **Unknown (explain)**

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: **(list all biological samples collected; describe or sketch any anomalies):**



IDENTIFICATION CRITERIA:

Number of:

☐ **Left Lateral Scutes**	**Overlapping Scutes?**	**Y / N / U**	
☐ **Right Lateral Scutes**	**Inframarginal Pores?**	**Y / N / U**	
☐ **Vertebral Scutes**	**1 Pair Prefrontal Scales?**	**Y / N / U**	
☐ **L. Inframarginal Scutes**	**Lacks Bony Shell?**	**Y / N**	
☐ **R. Inframarginal Scutes**	**Does Nuchal Scute Touch 1st Lateral Scute?**	**Y / N / U**	

Place a "Y" on the lines of the diagram to indicate positive reflex/response or a "N" for no response.

CONDITION EVALUATION FOR TURTLES NOT CODED "ALIVE"

Rigor Mortis	**Y / N / U**
Rotting Flesh	**Y / N / U**
Foul Smell	**Y / N / U**

Dorsal Coloration ☐ **Black** ☐ **Orange/Red-Brown** ☐ **Brown** ☐ **Gray-Green** ☐ **Other** _____

SAWFISH, STURGEON, MARINE MAMMALS, BIRDS

PROTECTED RESOURCES CAPTURE REPORT

REPORT WITH IN 24 HOURS OF CAPTURE 1_10

Trip Number ☐☐☐☐☐☐ MO DY YR ___/___/___ **Set/Tow** ☐☐☐ ☐ **Station** ☐ **Non-Station** ☐ **Captured** ☐ **Sighted** **Specimen # By Trip** ☐☐☐

Vessel ☐☐☐ **Observer** ☐☐☐ **State** ☐☐ **Time (24 hr)** ☐☐:☐☐ **Water Depth (ft.)** ☐☐☐.☐ **Photos Y/N** ☐ **Number** ☐☐

LATITUDE ☐☐ deg ☐☐ min ☐☐ sec **LONGITUDE** ☐☐ deg ☐☐ min ☐☐ sec

Gear Type: ☐ Longline ☐ Gill Net ☐ Trawl ☐ Bandit Reel ☐ Handline ☐ Fish Trap ☐ Spear Fishing

Gear Depth: ☐ Surface ☐ Midwater ☐ Bottom ☐ Other _____

Net Position ☐ **Net Type Animal Captured In:** ☐ Try Net ☐ Standard Net **Net Modifications:** ☐ TED ☐ TED/BRD ☐ None ☐ Unknown

IF GEAR IS A FORM OF HOOK AND LINE, COMPLETE THIS SECTION, AS APPLICABLE:

Hook Type: ☐ "J" ☐ Circle ☐ other (describe) _____ **SIZE** ☐☐ /0

Manufacturer/Style No. _____ **DEGREE OFFSET** ☐☐°

Bait: ☐ Squid ☐ Mackerel ☐ Sardine ☐ Unknown ☐ Other (describe) _____

Was hook removed from this animal? Y / N / Unknown / Not Applicable

Was animal entangled in gear? At capture? Y / N / Unknown **At Release?** Y / N / Unknown

How much gear (linear feet) was left on the animal when released? ☐☐☐.☐ ft. (estimated/measured)

TARGET SPECIES: List all targeted species for this set using genus species format.

_____ _____ _____ _____

DIMENSIONS (cm):

Estimated total length: ☐☐.☐ ft. **Estimated length of saw:** ☐☐.☐ ft.

Total Length: ☐☐☐.☐ cm (if boated)

TAG ID NUMBERS:

_____ _____ _____ _____

RELEASE INFORMATION: **TIME (24hr)** ☐☐:☐☐ **DATE** ___/___/___ (MO DY YR)

LATITUDE ☐☐ deg ☐☐ min ☐☐ sec **LONGITUDE** ☐☐ deg ☐☐ min ☐☐ sec

FINAL DISPOSITION: ☐ Discarded Dead/Unresponsive Carcass ☐ Released Alive ☐ Unknown (explain)

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: (list all biological samples collected):

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

BYCATCH REDUCTION DEVICE TESTING MANUAL

2008

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

Galveston Laboratory
4700 Avenue U
Galveston, Texas 77551-5997

Mississippi Laboratories
Pascagoula Facility
3209 Frederic Street
Pascagoula, Mississippi 39568-1207

DEFINITIONS

Bycatch reduction criterion is the standard by which a BRD candidate will be evaluated. To be certified for use by the shrimp fishery in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) off the southeastern United States (North Carolina through Texas), the BRD candidate must demonstrate a successful reduction of total finfish bycatch by at least 30 percent by weight.

Bycatch reduction device (BRD) is any gear or trawl modification designed to allow finfish to escape from a shrimp trawl.

BRD candidate is a bycatch reduction device to be tested for certification for use in the commercial shrimp fishery of southeastern United States.

Certified BRD is a BRD that has been tested according to the procedure outlined herein and has been determined by the RA as having met the bycatch reduction criterion.

Control trawl means a trawl that is not equipped with a BRD during the evaluation.

Experimental trawl means the trawl that is equipped with the BRD candidate during an evaluation.

Evaluation and oversight personnel means scientists, observers, and other technical personnel who, by reason of their occupation or scientific expertise or training, are approved by the RA as qualified to evaluate and review the application and testing process.

Net/side bias means when the net(s) being fished on one side of the vessel demonstrate a different catch rate (fishing efficiency) than the net(s) being fished on the other side of the vessel during paired-net tests.

Observer means a person on the list maintained by the RA of individuals qualified to supervise and monitor a BRD certification test.

Paired-net test means a tow during certification trials where a control net and an experimental net are fished simultaneously, and the catches and catch rates between the nets are compared.

Provisional Certification Criterion means a secondary benchmark which would allow a BRD candidate to be used for a time-limited period in the southeastern shrimp fishery. To meet the criterion, the BRD candidate must demonstrate a successful reduction of total finfish bycatch by at least 25 percent by weight.

Provisionally certified BRD means a BRD that has been tested according to the procedure outlined herein and has been determined by the RA as having met the

provisional certification criterion. A BRD meeting the provisional certification criterion would be certified by the RA for a period of 2 years.

Regional Administrator (RA) means the Southeast Regional Administrator, National Marine Fisheries Service.

Required measurements refers to the quantification of gear characteristics such as the dimensions and configuration of the trawl, the BRD candidate, the doors, or the location of the BRD in relation to other parts of the trawl gear that are used to assess the performance of the BRD candidate.

Sample size means the number of successful tows (a minimum of 30 tows per test are required).

Shrimp trawler means any vessel that is equipped with one or more trawl nets whose on-board or landed catch of shrimp is more than 1 percent, by weight, of all fish comprising its on-board or landed catch.

Successful tow means that the control and experimental trawl were fished in accordance with the requirements set forth herein and the terms and conditions of the letter of authorization, and there is no indication problematic events, such as those listed in Appendix D-5, occurred during the tow to impact or influence the fishing efficiency (catch) of one or both nets.

Tow time means the total time (hours and minutes) an individual trawl was fished (i.e., the time interval beginning when the winch is locked after deploying the net overboard, and ending when retrieval of the net is initiated).

Trawl means a net and associated gear and rigging used to catch shrimp. The terms trawl and net are used interchangeably throughout the manual.

Try net means a separate net pulled for brief periods by a shrimp trawler to test for shrimp concentrations or determine fishing conditions (e.g., presence of absence of bottom debris, jellyfish, bycatch, seagrasses).

Tuning a net means adjusting the trawl and its components to minimize or eliminate any net/side bias that exists between the two nets that will be used as the control and experimental trawls during the certification test.

I. Introduction

This Bycatch Reduction Device Testing Manual (Manual) establishes a standardized process for evaluating the ability of bycatch reduction device (BRD) candidates to meet the established bycatch reduction criterion, and be certified for use in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) by the southeastern shrimp fishery. BRDs are required for use in shrimp trawls fished shoreward of the 100-fathom (183-meter) depth contour in the Gulf of Mexico, and within the EEZ of the South Atlantic region.

Various BRD requirements also exist in state waters in the South Atlantic and off Florida and Texas in the Gulf of Mexico. Persons wishing to conduct BRD candidate evaluations exclusively in state waters do not need to apply to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries Service) for authorization to conduct these tests, but should contact the appropriate state officials for authorizations. However, for data collected in such evaluations to be considered by NOAA Fisheries Service for certification, the operations plan and data collection procedures must meet the criteria established in this Manual.

II. BRD Candidate Evaluations

A. Application

Persons interested in evaluating the efficiency of a BRD candidate must apply for, receive, and have on board the vessel during the evaluation, a Letter of Authorization (LOA) from the Regional Administrator (RA). To receive an LOA, the applicant must submit the following documentation to the RA: (1) a completed application form (Appendix A); (2) a brief statement of the purpose and goal of the activity for which the LOA is requested; (3) an operations plan (see Section C below) describing the scope, duration, dates, and location of the test, and methods that will be used to conduct the test; (4) an 8.5-inch x 11-inch (21.6-cm x 27.9-cm) diagram drawn to scale of the BRD design; (5) an 8.5-inch x 11-inch (21.6-cm x 27.9-cm) diagram drawn to scale of the BRD in the shrimp trawl; (6) a description of how the BRD is supposed to work; (7) a copy of the testing vessel's U.S. Coast Guard documentation or its state registration; and (8) a copy of the testing vessel's Federal commercial shrimp vessel permit.

An applicant requesting an LOA to test an unapproved turtle excluder device (TED) as a BRD (including modifications to a TED that would enhance finfish exclusion) must first apply for and obtain from the RA an experimental TED authorization pursuant to 50 CFR 223.207(e)(2). Applicants should contact the Protected Resources Division of NOAA Fisheries Service's Southeast Regional Office for further information. The LOA applicant must include a copy of that authorization with the application.

Incomplete applications will be returned to the applicant along with a letter from the RA indicating what actions the applicant may take to make the application complete.

There is no cost to the applicant for the RA's administrative expenses such as reviewing applications, issuing LOAs, evaluating test results, or certifying BRDs. However, all other costs associated with the actual testing activities are the responsibility of the applicant, or any associated sponsor.

If an application for an LOA is denied, the RA will provide a letter of explanation to the applicant, together with relevant recommendations to address the deficiencies that resulted in the denial.

B. Allowable Activities

Issuance of an LOA to test a BRD candidate in the South Atlantic or Gulf of Mexico allows the applicant to remove or disable the existing certified BRD in one outboard net (to create a control net), and to place the BRD candidate in another outboard net in lieu of a certified BRD (to create an experimental net). All other trawls under tow during the test must have a certified BRD, unless these nets are specifically exempted in the LOA. All trawls under tow during the test must have an approved TED unless operating under an authorization issued pursuant to 50 CFR 223.207(e)(2), whereby the test is being conducted on an experimental TED. The LOA, and experimental TED authorization if applicable, must be on board the vessel while the test is being conducted. The term of the LOA will be 60 days; should circumstances require a longer test period, the applicant may apply to the RA for a 60-day extension.

C. Operations Plan

An operations plan should be submitted with the application describing a method to compare the catches of shrimp and fish in a control net (net without a BRD candidate installed) to the catches of the same species in an experimental net (a net configured identically to the control net but also equipped with the BRD candidate).

The applicant may choose to conduct a pre-certification test of a prototype BRD candidate. A pre-certification test would be conducted when the intent is to assess the preliminary effectiveness of a prototype BRD candidate under field conditions, and to make modifications to the prototype BRD candidate during the field test. For pre-certification testing, the operations plan must include only a description of the scope, duration, dates, and location of the test, along with a description of methods that will be used to conduct the test. No observer is required for a pre-certification test, but the applicant may choose to use an observer to maintain a written record of the test. The applicant will maintain a written record for both the control and experimental net during each tow. Mandatory data collection is limited to the weight of the shrimp catch and the weight of the total finfish catch in each test net during each tow. These data must be submitted to NOAA Fisheries Service at the conclusion of the test. Although not required, the applicant may wish to incorporate some or all the certification test requirements listed below.

For a BRD candidate to be considered for certification, the operations plan must be more detailed and address the following topics:

- The primary assumption in assessing the bycatch reduction efficiency of the BRD candidate during paired-net tests is that the inclusion of the BRD candidate in the experimental net is the only factor causing a difference in catch from the control net. Therefore, the nets to be used in the tests must be calibrated (tuned) to minimize, to the extent practicable, any net/side bias in catch efficiency prior to beginning a test series, and tuned again after any gear modification or change. Additional information on tuning shrimp trawls to minimize bias is available from the Harvesting Technology Branch, Mississippi Laboratories, Pascagoula Facility, 3209 Frederic Street, Pascagoula, Mississippi 39568-1207; phone (601) 762-4591.

- A standard tow time for a proposed evaluation should be defined. Tow times must be representative of the tow times used by commercial shrimp trawlers. The applicant should indicate what alternatives will be considered should the proposed tow time need adjustment once the test begins.

- A minimum sample size of 30 successful tows using a specific BRD candidate design is required for the statistical analysis described in Section F. No alterations of the BRD candidate design are allowed during a specific test series. If the BRD candidate design is altered, a new test series must be started. If a gear change (i.e., changing nets, doors, or rigging) is required, the nets should be tuned again before proceeding with further tests to complete the 30-tow series. Minor repairs to the gear (e.g., sewing holes in the webbing; replacing a broken tickler chain with a new one of the same configuration) are not considered a "gear change."

- For tests conducted on twin-rig vessels, biases that might result from the use of a try net should be minimized. Total fishing times for a try net must be a consistent percentage of the total tow time during each tow made in the test.

- To incorporate any potential net/side bias that remains after the tuning tows (e.g., the effect of a try net), or to accommodate for bias that develops between the control and experimental nets during the test, the operations plan should outline a timetable ensuring that an equal number of successful tows are made with the BRD candidate employed in both the port and starboard nets.

- Mandatory data to be collected during a test includes: (1) detailed gear specifications as set forth in Appendices B and C, and (2) pertinent information concerning the location, duration and catch from individual tows as set forth in Appendices D and F.

- Following each paired tow, the catches from the control and experimental nets must be examined separately. This requires that the catch from each net be kept separate from each other, as well as from the catch taken in other nets fished during that tow. Mandatory data collections include recording the weight of the total catch of each test net (control and experimental nets), the catch of shrimp (i.e., brown, white, pink, rock, or other shrimp by species) in each test net, and the catch of total finfish in aggregate in each test net.

- When recording the detailed information on the species found in the catch, if the catch in a net does not fill one standard 1-bushel [ca. 10 gallon] (30 liters) polyethylene shrimp basket (ca. 70 pounds) (31.8 kg), but the tow is otherwise considered successful, data must be collected on the entire catch of the net, and recorded as a "select" sample (see Appendices D and F), indicating that the values represent the total catch of the particular net. If the catch in a net exceeds 70 pounds (31.8 kg), a well-mixed sample consisting of one standard 1-bushel [ca. 10 gallon] (30 liters) polyethylene shrimp basket must be taken from the total catch of the net. The total weight of the sample must be recorded, as well as the weights (and numbers as applicable) of the various species or species groups found within that sample. These sample values can then be extrapolated to estimate the quantity of those species or species groups found in the total catch of the particular net.

- Although not a criterion for certification, applicants testing BRD candidates are encouraged to collect additional information that may be pertinent to addressing bycatch issues in their respective regions. For example, in the western Gulf of Mexico applicants are especially encouraged to collect information on red snapper. If the applicant chooses to collect these data, the total ("select") catch of the target species from each test net (not just from the sample) should be recorded along with lengths for as many individuals per net per tow as set forth in Appendices E and F. Additional information in regard to the catch can be recorded on forms such as Appendix G.

The operations plan should address what the applicant will do should it become necessary to deviate from the primary procedures outlined in the operations plan. The plan should describe in detail what will be done to continue the test in a reasonable manner that is consistent with the primary procedures. For example, it may become necessary to alter the pre-selected tow time to adapt to local fishing conditions to successfully complete the test. Prior to issuing a LOA, the RA may consult with evaluation personnel review the acceptability of these proposed alterations.

D. Observer Requirement

It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that a qualified observer is on board the vessel during the certification tests. A list of qualified observers is available from the RA. Observers may include employees or individuals acting on behalf of NOAA

Fisheries Service, state fishery management agencies, universities, or private industry, who meet the minimum requirements outlined in Appendix H. Any change in information or testing circumstances, such as replacement of the observer, must be reported to the RA within 30 days. Under 50 CFR 600.746, when any fishing vessel is required to carry an observer as part of a mandatory observer program under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801, *et seq.*), the owner or operator of the vessel must comply with guidelines, regulations, and conditions to ensure their vessel is adequate and safe to carry an observer, and to allow normal observer functions to collect information as described in this Manual. A vessel owner is deemed to meet this requirement if the vessel displays one of the following: (i) a current Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Examination decal, issued within the last 2 years, that certifies compliance with regulations found in 33 CFR, chapter I, and 46 CFR, chapter I; (ii) a certificate of compliance issued pursuant to 46 CFR 28.710; or (iii) a valid certificate of inspection pursuant to 46 U.S.C. 3311. The observer has the right to check for major safety items, and if those items are absent or unserviceable, the observer may choose not to sail with the vessel until those deficiencies are corrected.

E. Reports

A report on the BRD candidate test results must be submitted by the applicant or associated sponsor before the RA will consider the BRD for certification. The report must contain a comprehensive description of the tests, copies of all completed data forms used during the tests, and photographs, drawings, and similar material describing the BRD. The captain, vessel owner, or the applicant must sign and submit the cover form (Appendix I). The report must include a description and explanation of any unanticipated deviations from the operations plan which occurred during the test. These deviations must be described in sufficient detail to indicate the tests were continued in a reasonable manner consistent with the approved operations plan procedures. Applicants must provide information on the cost of materials, labor, and installation of the BRD candidate. In addition, any unique or special circumstances of the tests, such as special operational characteristics or fishing techniques which enhance the BRD's performance, should be described and documented as appropriate.

F. Certification

The RA will determine whether the required reports and supporting materials are sufficient to evaluate the BRD candidate's efficiency. The determination of sufficiency would be based on whether the applicant adhered to the prescribed testing procedure or provided adequate justification for any deviations from the procedure during the test. If the RA determines that the data are sufficient for evaluation, the BRD candidate will be evaluated to determine if it meets the bycatch reduction criterion. In making a decision, the RA may consult with evaluation and oversight personnel. Based on the data submitted for review, the RA will determine the effectiveness of the BRD candidate, using appropriate statistical procedures such as Bayesian analyses, to determine if the BRD candidate meets the following conditions:

#1) There is at least a 50-percent probability that the true reduction rate of the BRD candidate meets the bycatch reduction criterion (i.e., the BRD candidate demonstrates a best point estimate [sample mean] that meets the certification criterion); and

#2) There is no more than a 10-percent probability that the true reduction rate of the BRD candidate is more than 5 percentage points less than the bycatch reduction criterion.

To be certified for use in the fishery, the BRD candidate will have to satisfy both criteria. The first condition ensures that the observed reduction rate of the BRD candidate has an acceptable level of certainty that it meets the bycatch reduction criterion. The second condition ensures the BRD candidate demonstrates a reasonable degree of certainty the observed reduction rate represents the true reduction rate of the BRD candidate. This determination ensures the operational use of the BRD candidate in the shrimp fishery will, on average, provide a level of bycatch reduction that meets the established bycatch reduction criterion. Interested parties may obtain details regarding the hypothesis testing procedure to be used by contacting the Harvesting Technology Branch, Mississippi Laboratories, Pascagoula Facility, 3209 Frederic Street, Pascagoula, Mississippi 39568-1207; phone (228) 762-4591. Following a favorable determination of the certification analysis, the RA will certify the BRD (with any appropriate conditions as indicated by test results) and publish the notice of certification in the *Federal Register*.

In addition, based on the data provided, the RA may provisionally certify a BRD candidate based on the following condition:

#1) There is at least a 50-percent probability that the true reduction rate of the BRD candidate is no more than 5 percentage points less than the bycatch reduction criterion (i.e., the BRD candidate demonstrates a best point estimate [sample mean] within 5 percentage points of the certification criterion).

A provisional certification will be effective for 2 years from the date of publication of a notice in the *Federal Register* announcing this provisional certification. This time period will allow additional wide scale industry evaluation of the BRD candidate, during which additional effort would be made to improve the efficiency of the BRD to meet the certification criterion.

III. BRDs Not Certified and Resubmission Procedures

The RA will advise the applicant, in writing, if a BRD is not certified. This notification will explain why the BRD was not certified and what the applicant may do to either modify the BRD or the testing procedures to improve the chances of having the BRD certified in the future. If certification was denied because of insufficient information, the RA will explain what information is lacking. The applicant must provide the additional information within 60 days from receipt of such notification. If the RA subsequently certifies the BRD, the RA will announce the certification in the *Federal Register*.

IV. Decertification of BRDs

The RA will decertify a BRD whenever NOAA Fisheries Service determines a BRD no longer satisfies the bycatch reduction criterion. Before determining whether to decertify a BRD, the RA will notify the appropriate Fishery Management Council in writing, and the public will be provided an opportunity to comment on the advisability of any proposed decertification. The RA will consider any comments from the Council and public, and if the RA elects to proceed with decertification of the BRD, the RA will publish proposed and final rules in the *Federal Register* with a comment period of not less than 15 days on the proposed rule.

V. Interactions with sea turtles

The following section is provided for informational purposes. Sea turtles are listed under the Endangered Species Act as either endangered or threatened. The following procedures apply to incidental take of sea turtles under 50 CFR 223.206(d)(1):

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

A) Sea turtles that are actively moving or determined to be dead (as described in paragraph (B)(4) below) must be released over the stern of the boat. In addition, they must be released only when fishing or scientific collection gear is not in use, when the engine gears are in neutral position, and in areas where they are unlikely to be recaptured or injured by vessels.

B) Resuscitation must be attempted on sea turtles that are comatose or inactive by:

(1) Placing the turtle on its bottom shell (plastron) so that the turtle is right side up and elevating its hindquarters at least 6 inches (15.2 cm) for a period of 4 to 24 hours. The amount of elevation depends on the size of the turtle; greater elevations are needed for larger turtles. Periodically, rock the turtle gently left to right and right to left by holding the outer edge

of the shell (carapace) and lifting one side about 3 inches (7.6 cm) then alternate to the other side. Gently touch the eye and pinch the tail (reflex test) periodically to see if there is a response.

(2) Sea turtles being resuscitated must be shaded and kept damp or moist but under no circumstance be placed into a container holding water. A water-soaked towel placed over the head, carapace, and flippers is the most effective method in keeping a turtle moist.

(3) Sea turtles that revive and become active must be released over the stern of the boat only when fishing or scientific collection gear is not in use, when the engine gears are in neutral position, and in areas where they are unlikely to be recaptured or injured by vessels. Sea turtles that fail to respond to the reflex test or fail to move within 4 hours (up to 24, if possible) must be returned to the water in the same manner as that for actively moving turtles.

(4) A turtle is determined to be dead if the muscles are stiff (rigor mortis) and/or the flesh has begun to rot; otherwise, the turtle is determined to be comatose or inactive and resuscitation attempts are necessary.

Any sea turtle so taken must not be consumed, sold, landed, offloaded, transshipped, or kept below deck."

OMB No. 0648-0345 Form Approval Expires: 06/30/2008

U.S. DEPT OF COMMERCE, NOAA
National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Region
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

APPENDIX A - APPLICATION TO TEST A BYCATCH REDUCTION DEVICE IN THE EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE

☐ Pre Certification ☐ Certification

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	
Expiration Date:	
Reviewer Initials and Date	
Violation Number and Hold Date	
Violation Clear Date and Clearers initials:	
Non Reporting Hold Date	
Non Reporting Cleared Date	

SECTION 1. VESSEL INFORMATION (please type)

VESSEL NAME	CG SAFETY STICKER NO.	USCG DOCUMENT NUMBER or STATE REGISTRATION NUMBER	
HOMEPORT - CITY AND STATE	ENGINE HORSEPOWER	LENGHT(IN FEET)	HOLD CAPACITY (TONS)

SECTION 2. APPLICANT INFORMATION

OWNER'S NAME			AREA/CODE TELEPHONE
MAILING ADDRESS			
CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	DATE OF BIRTH: MONTH - DAY - YEAR
TIN (EIN or SSN)			

SECTION 3. OWNER/OPERATOR INFORMATION IF REQUIRED: See instructions for requirements

OWNER'S NAME			AREA/CODE TELEPHONE
MAILING ADDRESS			
CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	DATE OF BIRTH: MONTH - DAY - YEAR
TIN (EIN or SSN)			

SECTION 4. LEASE INFORMATION: See instructions for requirements

OWNER'S NAME			AREA/CODE TELEPHONE
MAILING ADDRESS			
CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	LEASE EXPIRATION - MONTH - DAY - YEAR

SECTION 5. SIGNATURE (ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE SIGNED)

Applicant's Signature	Applicant's Position	Date
Owner's Signature (if different from Applicant	Position - if owner is a business	Date

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

Under 50 CFR part 622.41(g), a person who proposes a bycatch reduction device (BRD) for pre-certification or for certification for use in the southeastern shrimp fishery must submit this application to test a BRD, conduct the testing, and submit the results of the test in accordance with the **Bycatch Reduction Device Testing Manual**. A BRD that meets the certification criterion, as determined under the testing protocol, will be added to the list of certified BRDs.

1. Type or print legibly in ink. Incomplete or unreadable applications will be returned.

2. Each application must be accompanied by a copy of the vessel's CURRENT Coast Guard certificate of documentation or, if not documented, its state registration certificate; and a test plan showing: (1) an 8.5" x 11" diagram drawn to scale of the BRD; (2) an 8.5" x 11" diagram drawn to scale of the BRD and turtle excluder device in the shrimp trawl; (3) a description of how the BRD is supposed to work; (4) the results of previous tests including but not limited to location, time, and area where tested; (5) the location, time, and area where the proposed tests would take place; and (6) the identify of the qualified observer (for certification phase testing only), and a basis for the observer's qualifications.

3. Mail the application, and copy of documentation/registration to: NMFS , 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL, 33701. Questions may be phoned to (727) 824-5305 between 8:00 am and 4:30 pm, eastern time.

4. Additional copies of this **application** and the **Bycatch Reduction Device Testing Manual** are available from NMFS at the address in

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

SECTION 1 Enter name, official number and length of vessel as they appear on the certificate of documentation or, if not documented, on the state registration certificate. Enter Coast Guard Vessel Safety number. Under "Home Port", enter the city and state where the vessel is customarily kept, not necessarily the home port on a certificate of documentation. The vessel owner must display a current vessel safety sticker from the Coast Guard, before NMFS will assign an observer.

SECTION 2 Provide the name, address, telephone number and other identifying information of the applicant.

SECTION 3 COMPLETE THIS SECTION ONLY IF THE OWNER / OPERATOR IS DIFFERENT THAN THE APPLICANT. Any change in the information in Section 3 must be reported to the Regional Administrator within 30 days after such change.

SECTION 4 COMPLETE THIS SECTION ONLY WHEN THE VESSEL IS BEING OPERATED UNDER A LEASE OR OTHER WRITTEN MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT THAT BESTOWS CONTROL OVER THE DESTINATION, FUNCTION OR OPERATION OF THE VESSEL TO A PERSON OTHER THAN THE PERSON SHOWN IN SECTION 2. Provide the name, address, telephone number and other identifying information of the controlling person. Enter the date of expiration of the lease or written management agreement that transferred control of the vessel from the person shown in Section 2. If such lease or written management agreement exists, the controlling person is the owner for the purposes of the authorization. Any change in the information in Section 4 must be reported to the Regional Administrator within 30 days after such change.

SECTION 5 ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE SIGNED OTHERWISE IT WILL BE RETURNED.

The NMFS requires this collection of information to minimize the bycatch of finfish in the southeastern shrimp fishery. The data and testing will be used to develop improved bycatch reduction devices (BRDs). Responses are required under the Magnuson-Stevens Act to obtain certification that allows use of a BRD in the shrimp fishery. Data will be confidential pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Act and other applicable law. Notwithstanding any other provisions of the law, no person is required to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 140 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other suggestions for reducing this burden to National Marine Fisheries Service, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701. OMB No. 068-0345

OMB No. 0648 -0345 Approval Expires - 06/30/2008

APPENDIX B

GEAR SPECIFICATION FORM
BRD TESTING PROTOCOL

Gear ID # ☐

Control (C) or Experimental (E) ☐

ORG PROT # ☐ TRIP NO. ☐ VESSEL ☐ TOW NO. ☐ DATE MO DY YR ☐

NET POSITION ☐

SECTION I NET GEAR MEASUREMENTS

NET TYPE AND HEAD/FOOTROPE MEASUREMENTS

Net Type ☐

Headrope Length ☐ Feet

Footrope Length ☐ Feet

Comments _____

LEG LINE MEASUREMENTS

Top Leg Length ☐ Feet

Bottom Leg Length ☐ Feet

Top Leg Dummy ☐ Feet

Bottom Leg Dummy ☐ Feet

TRAWL BODY

Type Nylon ☐ Poly ☐ Spectra ☐

Mesh Size ☐ Inches

Comments _____

TRAWL EXTENSION

Type Nylon ☐ Poly ☐ Spectra ☐

Mesh Size ☐ Inches

Comments _____

COD END

Type Nylon ☐ Poly ☐ Spectra ☐

Mesh Size ☐ Inches Twine Size ☐

Comments _____

CHAFFING GEAR

Type Whiskers ☐ Mesh ☐ Metal ☐

DOORS

Type Aluminum ☐ Wood ☐ Other ☐

Door Length ☐ Feet

Door Height ☐ Feet

Dummy Door Length ☐ Feet

Comments _____

TICKLER CHAIN

Chain Length ☐ Feet

Chain Size (guage) ☐ Inches

Comments _____

LAZY LINE

Rigging: Elephant Ears ☐ Choke ☐

Comments

SECTION II BRD MEASUREMENTS

BRD TYPE Fisheye ☐ Jones Davis ☐ Other ☐

Fisheye position: Top ☐ Offset ☐

Codend length (# of meshes): ☐

Circumference of the codend (# of meshes): ☐

Distance of escape opening from elephant ear or choke rings: ☐ Feet ☐ Inches

Distance of escape opening from tie off rings: ☐ Feet ☐ Inches

Number of meshes the fisheye is offset from top center ☐

Fisheye (BRD) escape opening: Height ☐ Inches Width ☐ Inches

Shape of the escape opening: oval, diamond, square, halfmoon, if other

Specify ☐

Looking from the mouth of the net, is the BRD located in front of, at, or behind the point of attachment of the elephant ears: (check one) Front ☐ at ☐ Behind ☐

What is the length of the elephant ear from the point of attachment to the tip of the ring: ☐ Inches

Distance from point of attachment of elephant ear to tie off rings ☐ Feet ☐ Inches

REVISED 08/31/99

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE GEAR SPECIFICATION FORM BRD TESTING PROTOCOL

A Gear Specification Form must be completed once for each net used in the control and experimental net positions during trawling operations. The control and experimental net positions should be changed every other day and a gear specification forms should be completed. If any gear setting or configuration changes are made, then additional form(s) must be completed by the observer for the affected net(s). If either of the two test nets is torn and repaired, then the repaired net must be remeasured for possible changes. All measurements should be recorded in feet and/or inches. Measurements should be converted to decimal form prior to data entry (10 feet and 6 inches = 10.5 feet, 3/4 inch = 0.75 inch). Detailed instructions for the Gear Specification Form are as follows:

TRIP NO.: Enter the Trip number. The organization will provide this information to the observer prior to their departure from port.

VESSEL: Enter the vessel code.

TOW NUMBER: Enter the starting tow number for a given vessel. If net or gear changes are made, enter the tow number when these changes occurred.

DATE: Enter the starting tow number date, or the date when the changes occurred.

NET POSITION: Enter 1 for outside port net; 2 for inside port net; 3 for inside starboard net; or 4 for outside starboard net. If there are only two nets being towed, the nets will be identified as nets numbered 2 and 3.

CONTROL - EXPERIMENTAL: Enter "C" for control net , this net will always closed or "E" for experimental net, the BRD is always open.

NET TYPE AND MEASUREMENTS
NET TYPE

NET TYPE: semi-balloon, balloon, flat, mongoose, etc.

HEADROPE LENGTH: Measure the length of the trawl headrope (feet and inches) where webbing is attached.

FOOTROPE LENGTH: Measure the length of the trawl footrope (feet and inches) where webbing is attached.

COMMENTS: (I.E.: Changed net type, replaced cut headrope or footrope).

LEG LINE

TOP LEGLINE LENGTH ON DOOR: Measure the length of the top legline (feet and inches) on the trawl's standard door. Top legline length is measured from the point of cable attachment at the door to the point where the first mesh on the net is tied to the cable.

BOTTOM LEGLINE LENGTH ON DOOR: Measure the length of the bottom legline (feet and inches) on the trawl's standard door. Bottom legline length is measured from the point of cable attachment at the door to the point where the first mesh on the net is tied to the cable.

TOP LEGLINE LENGTH ON DUMMY DOOR: Measure the top legline length (feet and inches) on the trawl's dummy door.

BOTTOM LEGLINE LENGTH ON DUMMY DOOR: Measure the bottom legline length (feet and inches) on the trawl's dummy door.

TWINE, MESH, AND OTHER GEAR MEASUREMENTS

TRAWL BODY

TYPE - Select the appropriate answer, nylon, poly or spectra.
MESH SIZE - Measure the stretched length to the nearest 1/4".
COMMENTS - (i.e., Changed net).

TRAWL EXTENSION

TYPE - Circle the appropriate answer, nylon, poly or spectra.
MESH SIZE - Measure the stretched length to the nearest 1/4".
COMMENTS -

COD END

TYPE - Circle the appropriate answer, nylon, poly or spectra.
MESH SIZE - Measure to nearest 1/4".
COMMENTS -

CHAFFING GEAR

TYPE - Select the appropriate answer; plastic, mesh or metal.
COMMENTS - (i.e., none used).

DOORS

DOOR TYPE - Select the appropriate answer, aluminum, wood or other.
If other, identify it in the comments section.
DOOR LENGTH - Measure the length of door (feet and inches).
DOOR HEIGHT - Measure the height of the door (feet and inches).
DUMMY DOOR LENGTH - Enter the length of the dummy door (feet and inches).
COMMENTS - any appropriate information on the doors.

TICKLER CHAIN

CHAIN LENGTH - Measure the length of the chain (feet and inches) from door to door.
CHAIN SIZE - Measure the length of the metal part of the link to the nearest 1/16 inch (do not measure the area where it is connected to another link or an area that has been welded).

COMMENTS - any appropriate information on the chain (i.e., replaced).

LAZY LINE

RIGGING - Select one, Elephant ears or Choke.
COMMENTS - any appropriate information on its use

TURTLE EXCLUDER DEVICE

TED TYPE - Enter Hard or Soft type.
TOP OR BOTTOM OPENING - Self explanatory.
COMMENTS - any appropriate information on its use

BYCATCH REDUCTION DEVICE (BRD)

TYPE - Select BRD type (i.e., Fisheye, Jones Davis or other).
FISHEYE - Select one by the location it is installed on the trawl net, top or offset.
CODEND LENGTH: Count the number of meshes in the length of the tailbag (codend) of the net.
MESHES IN CIRCUMFERENCE OF THE CODEND: Number of meshes in the circumference of the cod end.
DISTANCE OF ESCAPE OPENING FROM ELEPHANT EAR OR CHOKE RINGS: Measured in feet and inches.
DISTANCE OF ESCAPE OPENING FROM TIE OFF RINGS: Measured in feet and inches.
NUMBER OF MESHES THE FISHEYE IS OFFSET FROM TOP CENTER: Self explanatory.
FISHEYE ESCAPE OPENING: Measure the height and width
SHAPE OF THE ESCAPE OPENING: Write the shape in the squares marked "specify".
POSITION: Looking from the mouth of the net, is the BRD in front, centered or behind the elephant ears. (select one).
LENGTH OF ELEPHANT EAR: Measure, starting where the elephant ear is attached to the net to the tip of the ring (This is in inches).
SKETCH the fisheye including height and width on the back of the form being used to file your report and if possible make a cardboard outline of the opening.

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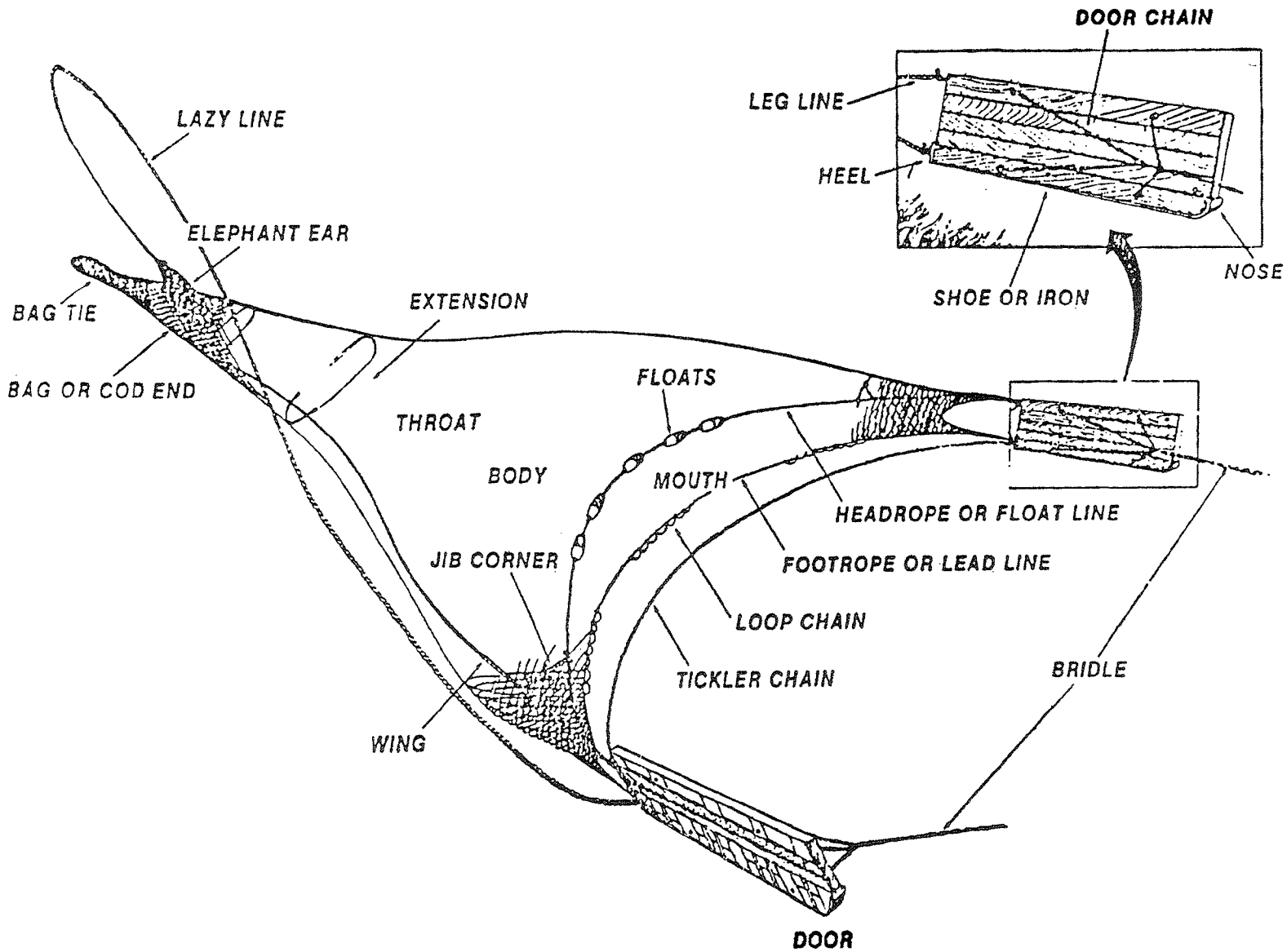
Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 20 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to Roy E. Crabtree, Southeast Regional Office, National Marine Fisheries Service, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701.

OTTER TRAWL COMPONENTS



APPENDIX C

OMB No. 0648 -0345 Approval Expires - 06/30/2008

TED/BRD SPECIFICATION FORM
BRD TESTING PROTOCOL

ORG PRO [ ][ ][ ][ ][ ] TRIP NO. [ ][ ][ ] VESSEL [ ][ ][ ] TOW NO. MO DY YR [ ][ ][ ][ ][ ][ ] DATE [ ] NET POSITION

SECTION III TED MEASUREMENTS

TED TYPE [ ] SOFT [ ] HARD

TED DESIGN (Circle one) WEEDLESS CURVED BAR STRAIGHT BAR UNKNOWN

TED OPENING [ ] TOP [ ] BOTTOM

TED FUNNEL (YES OR NO) [ ]

TED MATERIAL [ ]

TED FLAP (YES OR NO) [ ]

 # OF TED FLOATS [ ][ ]

TED ANGLE (DEGREES) [ ][ ][ ]

FLOAT TYPE [ ]

TED DIMENSIONS LENGTH (INCHES) [ ][ ][ ] WIDTH (INCHES) [ ][ ][ ]

GEAR DESCRIPTIONS

BRD DESCRIPTION

BRD DIAGRAM

Sketch fisheye including height and width (on the back of this form) or attact cardboard outline (if possible).

GEAR DESCRIPTION

GEAR DIAGRAM

REVISED 08/31/99

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE TED/BRD SPECIFICATION FORM BRD TESTING PROTOCOL

A TED/BRD Specification Form must be completed once for each net used in the control and experimental net positions during trawling operations. If any gear setting or configuration changes are made, then additional form(s) must be completed by the observer for the affected net(s). If either of the two test nets is torn and repaired, then the repaired net must be remeasured for possible changes. All measurements should be recorded in feet and/or inches. Measurements should be converted to decimal form prior to data entry (10 feet and 6 inches = 10.5 feet, 3/4 inch = 0.75 inch). Detailed instructions for the Gear Specification Form are as follows:

TRIP NO.: Enter the Trip number. The organization will provide this information to the observer prior to their departure from port.

VESSEL: Enter the vessel code.

TOW NUMBER: Enter the starting tow number for a given vessel. If net or gear changes are made, enter the tow number when these changes occurred.

DATE: Enter the starting tow number date, or the date when the changes occurred.

NET POSITION: Enter 1 for outside port net; 2 for inside port net; 3 for inside starboard net; or 4 for outside starboard net. If there are only two nets being towed, the nets will be identified as nets numbered 2 and 3.

CONTROL - EXPERIMENTAL: Enter "C" for control net , this net will always closed or "E" for experimental net, the BRD is always open.

TED:

TED TYPE -
Circle the appropriate answer, hard or soft.
Circle the appropriate answer, weedless, curved bar, or straight.
Circle the appropriate answer, top opening or bottom opening.
Circle the appropriate answer, TED funnel or no TED funnel.
Circle the appropriate answer, TED flap or no TED flap.

ANGLE OF TED (in degrees) - Measure angle of TED in trawl.

SIZE OF TED - Specify dimensions of TED used in both control and BRD trawl.

MATERIAL - Identify what material TED is constructed of.

FLOATATION - List number and type of floats used.

BYCATCH REDUCTION DEVICE (BRD):

DETAILED DESCRIPTION - A detailed description of the configuration of the BRD are required.

BRD DIAGRAM - A detailed diagram of the BRD (B-4) used is required to be provided. Photographs of the BRD are required to be provided.

GEAR DIAGRAM - A detailed diagram of the BRD configuration including placement and measurements (e.g., number of meshes) of all trawl components including the BRD and TED used is required to be provided.

The NMFS requires this collection of information to minimize the bycatch of finfish in the southeastern shrimp fishery. The data and testing will be used to develop improved bycatch reduction devices (BRDs). Responses are required under the Magnuson-Stevens Act to obtain certification that allows use of a BRD in the shrimp fishery of the Gulf of Mexico. Data will be confidential pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Act and other applicable law. Notwithstanding any other provisions of the law, no person is required to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

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APPENDIX D OMB No. 0648 -0345 Approval Expires - 06/30/2008

STATION SHEET BRD EVALUATION
BRD TESTING PROTOCOL

ORG PRO

TRIP NO. | VESSEL | TOW NO. | OBSERVER | MONTH DAY YEAR DATE

TIME IN | DEGREE MINUTE SECONDS LATITUDE IN | DEGREE MINUTE SECONDS LONGITUDE IN | DEPTH IN (FEET)

TIME OUT | DEGREE MINUTE SECONDS LATITUDE OUT | DEGREE MINUTE SECONDS LONGITUDE OUT | DEPTH OUT (FEET)

HOURS TOWED | KNOTS VESSEL SPEED | STAT ZONE | 1 2 3 4 OPERATION CODE | TOTAL NETS | SEA STATE

NET POSITION SAMPLED | BRD OPEN (E) BRD CLOSED (C) | SAMPLE WEIGHT (kg) *of one-basket characterization sample; if done.*

TOTAL CATCH WEIGHT (kg) | SHRIMP TOTAL WEIGHT (kg) | SHRIMP - OR HEAD ON (O) HEAD OFF (X)

FINFISH TOTAL WEIGHT (kg)

Attach length frequency form for red snapper

RED SNAPPER TOTAL WEIGHT (kg) | RED SNAPPER TOTAL NUMBER | NO. OF RED SNAPPER LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO 100 mm | NO. OF RED SNAPPER GREATER THAN 100 mm

Comments: _____

NET POSITION SAMPLED | BRD OPEN (E) BRD CLOSED (C) | SAMPLE WEIGHT (kg) *of one-basket characterization sample; if done.*

TOTAL CATCH WEIGHT (kg) | SHRIMP TOTAL WEIGHT (kg) | SHRIMP - OR HEAD ON (O) HEAD OFF (X)

FINFISH TOTAL WEIGHT (kg)

Attach length frequency form for red snapper

RED SNAPPER TOTAL WEIGHT (kg) | RED SNAPPER TOTAL NUMBER | NO. OF RED SNAPPER LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO 100 mm | NO. OF RED SNAPPER GREATER THAN 100 mm

Comments: _____

Characterization (one basket) for each net ☐ YES (Attach Species Forms) ☐ NO

Captain's Signature _____

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE STATION SHEET

This form is split into two sections, the first part is for location information and the second part is for sample information. For both sections, 999's should be entered as a default code for all numeric fields where data are not available, with an explanation given in the comments section. The sample section is divided, half is for the first net being sampled, and the other half is for the second net sampled.

SECTION 1

TRIP NO: Transcribe the Vessel Information Form.

VESSEL: Transcribe the Vessel Information Form.

TOW NUMBER: Enter the appropriate tow number. The tow number starts at 001 for each trip.

OBSERVER: Enter the observers (your) initials, first, middle, and last.

DATE: Using two digits for month, day, and year (MO/DY/YR) enter the appropriate information (e.g., 6 May 1998 is 050698).

TIME IN: Enter the time that the nets are set (i.e., "dog off" time). Use military time, midnight is 0000, 1 A.M. is 0100, 1 P.M. is 1300. Military time uses a 24 hour clock for time keeping.

LATITUDE IN: Enter the position of the vessel at the tow start time in degrees, minutes and seconds. ASK THE CAPTAIN IF THE LORAN or GPS UNIT READS IN DEGREES, MINUTES, AND SECONDS OR IN DEGREES, MINUTES, AND HUNDREDTHS OF A MINUTE. If the unit reads in hundredths of minutes, multiply the last two digits (as a decimal figure) by 60 to obtain the seconds (e.g., .33 X 60 = 19.8 seconds this is rounded up to 20 seconds).

LONGITUDE IN: Enter the position of the vessel at the tow start time in degrees, minutes and seconds. Remember to correct the data if necessary.

DEPTH IN (IN FEET): Enter the water depth at the start of the tow. ASK THE CAPTAIN IF THE TRANSPONDER IS MOUNTED AT THE WATER LINE OR ON THE KEEL. IF THE WATER DEPTH IS MEASURED FROM ANYWHERE BUT THE WATER LINE THEN ADD THE DEPTH OF THE TRANSPONDER TO THE DEPTH READING.

TIME OUT: Enter the time at the start of haul back.

LATITUDE OUT: Enter the position of the vessel at the start of haul back in degrees, minutes and seconds. Remember to correct the data if necessary.

LONGITUDE OUT: Enter the position of the vessel at the start of haul back in degrees, minutes and seconds. Remember to correct the data if necessary.

DEPTH OUT: (IN FEET) - Enter the water depth at the end of the tow. Remember to correct the data for true depth if necessary.

HOURS TOWED: COMPUTE THE HOURS TOWED FROM TIME IN TO THE TIME OUT. Enter this information in hours and tenths of hours (e.g., one hour and thirty minutes is 1.5 hours).

VESSEL SPEED: This information comes from the Captain and should be in KNOTS.

STAT ZONE: Enter the appropriate statistical zone **(at time in)** for Gulf of Mexico or southeastern Atlantic. Leave blank if towing is done outside the statistical zones, and explain in comments.

OPERATIONAL CODE: Select the appropriate operational code for each net. Generally, a successful tow is denoted as ZZYZ, with Z being a successful trawl for a net position, and Y indicating that a "Try Net" was towed in front of net # 3. See the operational codes listing for the appropriate code for your situation. In situations were several problems affect a tow, generally the most severe problem is recorded. If the nets are bogged down due to mud, the operational code would read BBBB. For unsuccessful tows (other than ZZYZ) please give further explanation in the comments section.

TOTAL NETS: Enter the total number of nets trawled (e.g., 2 or 4). Do not include the try net in this count.

SEA STATE: Sea state is measured as wave height in feet. Enter the number that best describes the sea state: 1 = 0-2 feet, 2 = 3-5 feet, 3 = 6-8 feet, 4 = 8+ feet

SECTION 2

NET POSITION SAMPLED: Enter the net position number of the sample net. PORT AND STARBOARD ARE DETERMINED BY FACING THE BOW OF THE VESSEL WHILE ON THE STERN, STARBOARD IN ON THE RIGHT AND PORT IS ON THE LEFT. (Net # 1 is the outside port net and is usually the first recorded on the form).

BRD OPEN (E) or BRD CLOSED (C): Enter "E" if net is experimental and has BRD typically opened or "C" if net is the "Control" and the BRD is typically closed.

SAMPLE WEIGHT: After mixing the catch, obtain a one basket sample (approximately 70 pounds) from each the control and experimental nets. Then remove all target fish species (e.g., red snapper) and weigh the basket. Enter the weight in kilograms. If either the experimental net or the control net has an operational code of other than "Z", enter 99.9 as a default code denoting that a sample was not taken.

TOTAL CATCH WEIGHT: Enter the weight of the total catch (in kilograms) from the net.

SHRIMP TOTAL WEIGHT: Enter the weight of all penaeid (brown, white, pink) shrimp. Remember to add in the weight of penaeid shrimp from the characterization sample.

SHRIMP - HEAD ON OR HEAD OFF: Enter "O" if the head is left on the shrimp or "X" if the head is removed.

FINFISH TOTAL CATCH WEIGHT: Enter the weight of the total finfish catch (in kilograms) from the net, or if sampled, the total finfish catch in the sample.

RED SNAPPER TOTAL WEIGHT: Enter the total weight in kilograms of all red snapper.

RED SNAPPER TOTAL NUMBER: Enter the total number of red snapper.

NO. OF RED SNAPPER LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO 100 mm: Enter the total number of red snapper that have a fork length of less than 100 mm. (Attach the length frequency form for red snapper).

NO. OF RED SNAPPER GREATER THAN 100 mm: Enter the total number of red snapper that have a fork length greater than 100 mm. (Attach the length frequency form for red snapper).

COMMENTS: Enter any appropriate information to the trawl (e.g., nets bogged down with mud, net torn, tire blocking TED).

CAPTAIN'S SIGNATURE: At the Captain's convenience, have him sign this form. This is to verify that the data were collected.

The NMFS requires this collection of information to minimize the bycatch of finfish in the southeastern shrimp fishery. The data and testing will be used to develop improved bycatch reduction devices (BRDs). Responses are required under the Magnuson-Stevens Act to obtain certification that allows use of a BRD in the shrimp fishery of the Gulf of Mexico. Data will be confidential pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Act and other applicable law. Notwithstanding any other provisions of the law, no person is required to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

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OPERATION CODES

A = Nets not spread; typically doors are flipped or doors hung together so net could not spread.

B = Gear bogged; the net has picked up a quantity of sand or mud such that the net can not be easily towed.

C = Bag choked; the catch in the net is prevented from getting into the bag by something (grass, sticks, turtle, etc.) clogging net or by the twisting of the lazy-line.

D = Gear not digging; the net is fishing off the bottom due to insufficient weight.

E = Twisted warp or line; the cables composing the bridle get twisted (from passing over blocks which occasionally must be removed before continuing to fish). Use this code if catch was affected.

F = Gear fouled; the gear has become entangled in itself. Typically this involves the webbing and some object like a float or chains.

G = Bag untied; bag of net not tied when dragging net.

H = Rough weather; if the weather is so bad fishing is stopped, then the previous tow should receive this code if the rough conditions affected the catch.

I = Torn webbing or lost net; usually results from hanging the net and tearing it loose. The net comes back with large tears if at all. Do not use this code if there are only a few broken meshes. Continue using this code until net is repaired or replaced.

J = Dumped catch; tow was made but catch was discarded, perhaps because of too much trash, fish, sponge. Give reason in Comments.

K = No pick up; tow made but net not dumped on deck because nets are brought up, boat changes location and nets are towed more before decking.

L = Hung up; untimely termination of a tow by a hang. Specify trawl(s) which were hung and caused lost time in Comments.

M = Bags dumped together and catches not separated.

N = Net did not fish; no apparent cause.

O = Gear fouled on object. Net may be towed but performance is affected. Give specifics in Comments.

P = No measurement taken of shrimp or total catch.

Q = Cable breaks and net lost. Describe in Comments.

R = Net caught in wheel.

S = Tickler chain fouled or tangled.

T = Other problems.

U = Excluder gear disabled.

W = Defective excluder gear.

Y = Net trailing behind try net.

Z = Successful tow.

Factors Affecting Shrimp Retention

High Shrimp Retention - Fish Eyes

1. Fast towing speed (2.8 - 3.0 knots).
2. Fast winch retrieval speed.
3. 120 meshes or greater bag.
4. Minimal /no turning.
5. Minimal tides.
6. Minimal debris.
7. Fair weather.

Reduced Shrimp Retention - Fish Eyes

1. Reduced/restricted tow speed <2.3 knots.
2. Slow winch retrieval.
3. Small bags 80-100 meshes.
4. Excessive turning.
5. Strong tides.
6. Debris, crab traps and jellyfish.
7. Rough weather.

Source: Georgia Marine Extension Service, 1997.

OMB No. 648-0345 Approval Expires- 06/30/2008

APPENDIX E

LENGTH FREQUENCY FORM (TARGET SPECIES)
BRD TESTING PROTOCOL

ORG PRO

TRIP NO. | VESSEL | TOW NUMBER | NET POSITION | Control (C) or Experimental (E)

GENUS

SPECIES | MEAS.CODE

LENGTH (MM)

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	
26	
27	
28	
29	
30	

GENUS

SPECIES | MEAS.CODE

LENGTH (MM)

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	
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17	
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	
26	
27	
28	
29	
30	

GENUS

SPECIES | MEAS.CODE

LENGTH (MM)

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
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11	
12	
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REVISED 08/31/98

INSTRUCTIONS FOR
LENGTH FREQUENCY FORM
BRD TESTING PROTOCOL

The length frequency forms are provided for convenience should the applicant choose to take lengths on certain species taken in the bycatch, such as red snapper or weakfish. The applicant may need to use more than one column for a species depending the number contained in your net.

TRIP NO: Transcribe from Station Sheet.

VESSEL: Transcribe from Station Sheet.

TOW NO.: Transcribe from Station Sheet.

NET POSITION: Transcribe from Station Sheet.

GENUS-SPECIES: Enter the first seven characters of the genus and the first six characters of the species name. If not identified to species, continue genus name into species block if longer than seven characters. Use family name if specimen can not be identified to species. The highlighted last two squares are for the measurement code which indicates the measurement utilized. For red snapper, Spanish mackerel and king mackerel the measurement code is 01 (measure fork length).

L	U	T	J	A	N	U	
C	A	M	P	E	C	0	1

MEASUREMENT CODE:

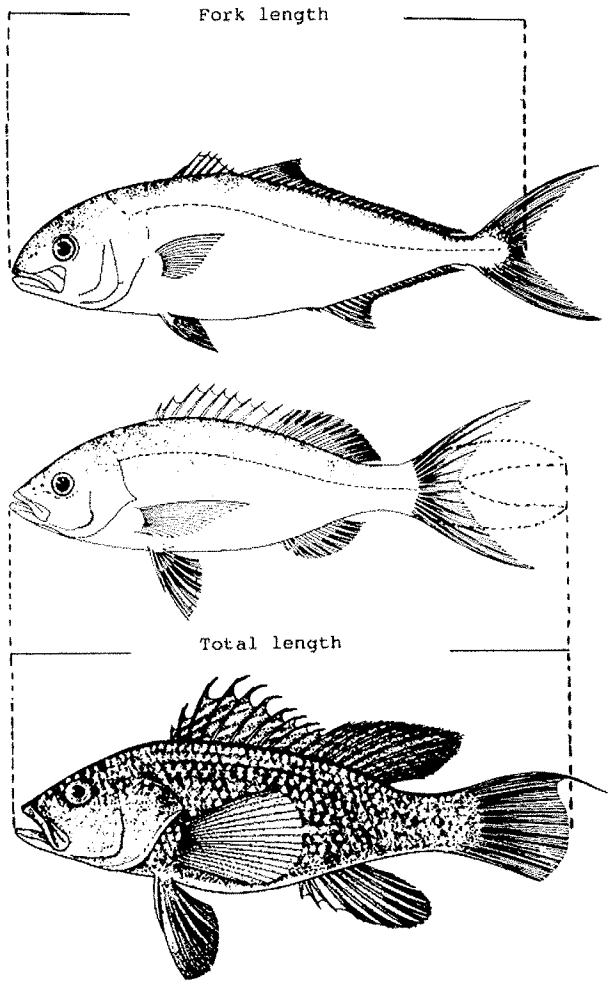
Step # 1: Identify the sample species.

Step # 2: Measure the organism (in millimeters) and record the measurement on the sheet.

The NMFS requires this collection of information to minimize the bycatch of finfish in the southeastern shrimp fishery. The data and testing will be used to develop improved bycatch reduction devices (BRDs). Responses are required under the Magnuson-Stevens Act to obtain certification that allows use of a BRD in the shrimp fishery of the Gulf of Mexico. Data will be confidential pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Act and other applicable law. Notwithstanding any other provisions of the law, no person is required to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 20 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to Southeast Regional Office, National Marine Fisheries Service, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701.

Illustration of fork Length and Total Length Measurement



OMB No. 0648-0345 Approval Expires - 06/30/2008

APPENDIX F

SPECIES CHARACTERIZATION FORM
BRD TESTING PROTOCOL

Trip No. | Vessel | Tow No. | Net Position | Control (C) Experimental (E)

COMMON NAME	GENUS	SPECIES YOY	X	NUMBER	SAMPLE WEIGHT(kg)	SELECT WEIGHT (kg)
CRABS, LOBSTERS, ETC.	CRUSTAC			1	.	.
OTHER INVERTEBRATES	INVERTE			1	.	.
SHARKS (ALL SPECIES)	CARCHAR				.	.
TROUT	CYNOSCI				.	.
SNAPPER (OTHER)	LUTJANU				.	.
LANE SNAPPER	LUTJANUS	YNAGR			.	.
CROAKER	MICROPO	UNDULA			.	.
SOUTHERN FLOUNDER	PARALIC	LETHOS			.	.
BLACK DRUM	POGONIA	CROMIS			.	.
COBIA	RACHYCE	CANADU			.	.
VERMILION SNAPPER	RHOMBOP	AURORU			.	.
RED DRUM	SCIAENO	OCELLA			.	.
SPOTTED SEATROUT	CYNOSCI	NEBULO			.	.
KING MACKEREL	SCOMBER	CAVALL			.	.
SPANISH MACKEREL	SCOMBER	MACULA			.	.
LONGSPINE PORGY	STENOTO	CAPRIN			.	.
OTHER FINFISH-GROUPED	PISCES			1	.	.
DEBRIS	DEBRIS			1	.	.

OTHER NOT LISTED						
					.	.
					.	.
					.	.

FOR ATLANTIC						
WEAKFISH (GRAY TROUT)	CYNOSCI	REGALI			.	.

REVISED 08/21/00

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE
SPECIES CHARACTERIZATION FORM
BRD TESTING PROTOCOL

TRIP NO.: Enter the trip number. The organization will provide this information to the observer prior to their departure from port.

VESSEL: Enter the vessel code.

TOW NUMBER: Enter the appropriate tow number.

NET POSITION: Enter the net position sample was taken from.

CONTROL (C) OR EXPERIMENTAL (E): Enter the appropriate code for this the sample net.

Procedure.

After obtaining a total weight for each the control and experimental nets, keep one basket (approximately 70 pounds) from each of the nets for species characterization (i.e., one basket from control net and one basket from the experimental net). Weigh the basket to obtain a sample weight which is entered on the station sheet (Remember to enter 9's for sample weight if a characterization is not done).

Processing the Catch

Become familiar with the species listed on this form. These organisms will be grouped by species, counted and weighed. All other organisms will be separated into the following categories:

1) Crabs, Lobster, etc. (Crustacea): includes shrimp other than brown, white, and pink shrimp. Mantis shrimp, sugar shrimp, seabobs, crabs, lobsters, etc. would be included in this group as well.

2) Other Invertebrates: includes organisms like squid, jelly fish, starfish, sea pansies, shells, etc.

3) Other Finfish (Pisces): includes all other fish, skates and rays not listed on the pre-printed station sheet. If the dominant fish species in your sample is not listed on the pre-printed station sheet, enter the common and scientific name, count and weight for that species group on the pre-printed list.

4) Debris: Includes miscellaneous debris such as chunks of mud, rocks, sticks, etc.

A group weight should be obtained for each of these four categories and entered this form. You do not have to count each organism within a category, a default code of 1 has already been entered in the number column.

1) Brown, White, and Pink Shrimp: All penaeid shrimp should be removed from the sample first. Separate by species, count, and weigh. The weights of these shrimp have to be added to the total

weight for all shrimp from the sampled net. If the boat is heading their shrimp, then these shrimp have to weighed without heads before adding the weight to the total shrimp weight.

2) Fish: Sharks - use this category for all species of sharks; Trout - this includes all species of sea trout except spotted seatrout; Snapper (Other) - remember, this category is for "Lutjanus" species only. This does not include wenchman snappers; Lane snapper - commonly referred to as a "candy snapper"; Whiting - this category is for all species of whiting; Croaker - sometimes confused with the spot which has a conspicuous spot just above the pectoral fin; Southern Flounder - be careful not to confuse this species with other common flatfish found in the trawls; Black Drum - juveniles sometimes confused with sheepshead; Cobia - Juveniles sometimes confused with sharksuckers; Vermilion Snapper - easily confused with wenchman snapper which are usually more common offshore; Red Drum; Spotted Seatrout; King Mackerel - deep posterior downward slope to lateral line; Spanish Mackerel - Shallow posterior slope to lateral line; Longspine Porgy - very common on offshore shrimp grounds.

Select Species

If a particular species is to be selected out of the total catch, and not just the sample, record the species group weight in the select weight column. Generally this occurs when the species is of commercial importance (i.e., mackerels) or rare. The project manager will inform you prior to the trip what commercial species (if any) are select. If a species is rare (i.e., not generally trawl caught) select that species out of the entire catch of the net selected for sampling. If the catch was worked up in its entirety (i.e., less than one basket), all entries will be in the select column.

The NMFS requires this collection of information to minimize the bycatch of finfish in the southeastern shrimp fishery. The data and testing will be used to develop improved bycatch reduction devices (BRDs). Responses are required under the Magnuson-Stevens Act to obtain certification that allows use of a BRD in the shrimp fishery of the Gulf of Mexico. Data will be confidential pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Act and other applicable law. Notwithstanding any other provisions of the law, no person is required to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 300 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to Southeast Regional Office, National Marine Fisheries Service, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701.

OMB No. 648-0345 Approval Expires- 06/30/2008

APPENDIX G

CONDITION AND FATE FORM
BRD TESTING PROTOCOL

CONTROL NET — NET POSITION ☐

CONDITION AND FATE OF BYCATCH PRIOR TO DISCARDING

FISH

- ☐ MORE THAN 50% OF CATCH ALIVE
- ☐ MORE THAN 50% OF CATCH DEAD
- ☐ NOT DETERMINED
- ☐ NOT OBSERVED

COMMENTS: _____

INVERTEBRATES

- ☐ MORE THAN 50% OF CATCH ALIVE
- ☐ MORE THAN 50% OF CATCH DEAD
- ☐ NOT DETERMINED
- ☐ NOT OBSERVED

COMMENTS: _____

PREDATORS OBSERVED

- ☐ SHARKS
- ☐ DOLPHINS
- ☐ SEA BIRDS
- ☐ OTHER FISH
- ☐ NONE
- ☐ NOT OBSERVED

COMMENTS: _____

(ESTIMATED # OF ORGANISMS) SEEN EXITING BRD DURING NET RETRIEVAL

- ☐ (1 - 10)
- ☐ (10 - 50)
- ☐ (50 - 100)
- ☐ (100 OR MORE)
- ☐ NONE
- ☐ N/A (BRD closed)
- ☐ NOT OBSERVED (or not able to see.)

COMMENTS: _____

PREDATORS ACTIVELY FEEDING ON ORGANISMS ESCAPING FROM BRD OPENING? (CHECK ONE)

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Observed (or not able to see.)

List predator types: _____

EXPERIMENTAL NET — NET POSITION ☐

CONDITION AND FATE OF BYCATCH PRIOR TO DISCARDING

FISH

- ☐ MORE THAN 50% OF CATCH ALIVE
- ☐ MORE THAN 50% OF CATCH DEAD
- ☐ NOT DETERMINED
- ☐ NOT OBSERVED

COMMENTS: _____

INVERTEBRATES

- ☐ MORE THAN 50% OF CATCH ALIVE
- ☐ MORE THAN 50% OF CATCH DEAD
- ☐ NOT DETERMINED
- ☐ NOT OBSERVED

COMMENTS: _____

PREDATORS OBSERVED

- ☐ SHARKS
- ☐ DOLPHINS
- ☐ SEA BIRDS
- ☐ OTHER FISH
- ☐ NONE
- ☐ NOT OBSERVED

COMMENTS: _____

(ESTIMATED # OF ORGANISMS) SEEN EXITING BRD DURING NET RETRIEVAL

- ☐ (1 - 10)
- ☐ (10 - 50)
- ☐ (50 - 100)
- ☐ (100 OR MORE)
- ☐ NONE
- ☐ N/A (BRD closed)
- ☐ NOT OBSERVED (or not able to see.)

COMMENTS: _____

PREDATORS ACTIVELY FEEDING ON ORGANISMS ESCAPING FROM BRD OPENING? (CHECK ONE)

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Observed (or not able to see.)

List predator types: _____

Revised 08/31/99

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE CONDITION & FATE FORM BRD TESTING PROTOCOL

TRIP NUMBER: Transcribe this information from the Vessel Information form.

VESSEL: Transcribe this code information from the Vessel Information form.

TOW NUMBER: Enter the appropriate tow number. The Tow Number starts at 001 for each trip. Remember, tows not sampled do not receive a tow number.

THIS FORM IS USED FOR BOTH NETS; LEFT SIDE FOR THE CONTROL NET AND THE RIGHT SIDE FOR THE EXPERIMENTAL NET.

CONTROL NET (BRD CLOSED)

NET POSITION CONTROL NET (BRD CLOSED): Enter the net position number of the net which has the BRD closed.

CONDITION AND FATE OF BYCATCH PRIOR TO DISCARDING

FISH: Select and mark one of the four categories listed

INVERTEBRATES: Select and mark one of the four categories listed. In the comments block enter any appropriate information.

PREDATORS OBSERVED: Select and mark the appropriate category. In the comments block enter any appropriate information.

EXPERIMENTAL NET (BRD OPEN)

NET POSITION EXPERIMENTAL NET (BRD OPEN): Enter the net position number of the net which has the BRD open.

CONDITION AND FATE OF BYCATCH PRIOR TO DISCARDING

FISH: Select and mark one of the four categories listed

INVERTEBRATES: Select and mark one of the four categories listed. In the comments block enter any appropriate information.

PREDATORS OBSERVED: Select and mark the appropriate category. In the comments block enter any appropriate information.

ESTIMATED # OF ORGANISMS SEEN EXITING BRD DURING NET RETRIEVAL: Select and mark the appropriate category. In the comments block list any predator(s) seen feeding on escaping organisms. The predator(s) may be feeding at the BRD opening or anywhere along the net following the escaping organisms.

The NMFS requires this collection of information to minimize the bycatch of finfish in the southeastern shrimp fishery. The data and testing will be used to develop improved bycatch reduction devices (BRDs). Responses are required under the Magnuson-Stevens Act to obtain certification that allows use of a BRD in the shrimp fishery of the Gulf of Mexico. Data will be confidential pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Act and other applicable law. Notwithstanding any other provisions of the law, no person is required to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

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INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE VESSEL INFORMATION FORM

APPENDIX H

QUALIFICATIONS OF OBSERVER

To be qualified as an observer operating under this Protocol, an individual must have a Bachelor's degree in fisheries biology or closely related field from an accredited college, have at least 6 months experience working with a university, college, state fisheries agency, NMFS, or private research organization such as the Gulf and South Atlantic Fisheries Foundation, Inc., as an observer on a trawler (including research trawlers) in the southeast region, or have successfully completed a training course conducted or approved by the Director of the NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center. A list of qualified observers is maintained by the RA.

An individual wishing to be included on the list of qualified observers, but who is not directly involved in any current bycatch observer programs, should submit a resume and supporting documents to the Director, Southeast Fisheries Science Center, 75 Virginia Beach Drive, Miami, FL 33149. Supporting information must include the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of at least three references who can attest to the applicant's background, experiences, and professional ability. These references will be contacted; unsatisfactory references may be a basis for disapproval of an applicant as an observer. The Center will use this information to determine which names will to be included on a list of qualified observers. If an applicant is not approved as an observer, the RA will notify the applicant of the disapproval and will provide an explanation for the denial.

APPENDIX I

OMB NUMBER 0648-0345 OMB APPROVAL EXPIRES - 06/30/2008

VESSEL INFORMATION FORM
BRD TESTING PROTOCOL

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
Trip. No. Vessel

DATE (MO/DY/YR): _____

OBSERVER NAME: _____

VESSEL NAME: _____

VESSEL LENGTH (ft.) _____

VESSEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: _____

YEAR VESSEL BUILT: _____

VESSEL TYPE (CIRCLE ONE): FREEZER OR ICE BOAT

MATERIAL OF HULL CONSTRUCTION (CIRCLE ONE):

STEEL WOOD FIBERGLASS

GROSS TONNAGE: _____

HORSEPOWER OF ENGINE: _____

CREW SIZE (WITHOUT CAPTAIN): _____

OWNER NAME: _____

OWNER ADDRESS: _____

CAPTAIN'S NAME: _____

OWNER'S OR CAPTAINS SIGNATURE: _____

POSITION, IF OWNER IS
A CORPORATION OR PARTNER: _____

TRIP NO. The trip number will be assigned to you prior to departure. The trip number is designated by the organization (e.g., NMFS, Foundation, BRD certification applicant). The trip number consists of five characters:

The first character refers to the organization conducting the project.

G = NMFS, Galveston Laboratory
F = Foundation, Gulf of Mexico
S = Foundation, South Atlantic
T = Texas Shrimp Association
D = Georgia DNR
N = North Carolina Sea Grant/State Resource Agency

The second character refers to the project type.

B = BRD Evaluation
C = Bycatch Characterization
G = BRD Certification, Gulf of Mexico
M = Modified Bycatch Characterization
N = Naked Net (TED alternative)
R = Red Snapper Initiative
S = BRD Certification, South Atlantic
T = TED Evaluation
X = Rock Shrimp Characterization
Z = Soft TED Evaluation

The third through fifth characters identify the number of the trip.

VESSEL: Enter the vessel code. This will be provided to you prior to departure. This is typically the initials of the vessel (e.g., Miss Kelly - MKE). If a duplication should occur (i.e., more than one vessel having the same two letter code), the organization will assign the vessel another code. For repeat trips on the same vessel, the same vessel code should be used

DATE (MO/DY/YR): Enter month, day, and year.

OBSERVER NAME: Print full name of the qualified observer conducting the test.

VESSEL NAME: Write the vessel's full name.

VESSEL LENGTH (ft.): Enter the vessel's overall length (feet). Get this information from the Captain.

VESSEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: Enter State or Federal vessel registration number.

YEAR VESSEL BUILT: Self-explanatory.

VESSEL TYPE (CIRCLE ONE): FREEZER OR ICE BOAT Self-explanatory.

MATERIAL OF HULL CONSTRUCTION (CIRCLE ONE):
STEEL WOOD FIBERGLASS Self-explanatory.

GROSS TONNAGE: Get this information from the Captain.

HORSEPOWER OF ENGINE: Get this information from the Captain.

CREW SIZE (WITHOUT CAPTAIN): Self-explanatory.

OWNER NAME: Self-explanatory.

OWNER ADDRESS: Self-explanatory.

CAPTAIN'S NAME: Self-explanatory.

OWNER'S OR CAPTAIN'S SIGNATURE: Self-explanatory.

POSITION, IF OWNER IS A CORPORATION OR PARTNERSHIP: Self-explanatory.

The NMFS requires this collection of information to minimize the bycatch of finfish in the southeastern shrimp fishery. The data and testing will be used to develop improved bycatch reduction devices (BRDs). Responses are required under the Magnuson-Stevens Act to obtain certification that allows use of a BRD in the shrimp fishery of the Gulf of Mexico. Data will be confidential pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Act and other applicable law. Notwithstanding any other provisions of the law, no person is required to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

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NMFS GALVESTON LABORATORY

BRD/BYCATCH and REEF FISH PROGRAM

RECEIPT

VESSEL NAME: _____

OBSERVER NAME: _____

$ _____ X _____ SEA DAYS = $ _____

Captain's Signature _____Date_____

By signature above, the vendor makes the statement they will not accept a government bank card or government purchase order as payment.

Trip Number _____ **Sea Dates _____ to _____**

Trip Number _____ **Sea Dates _____ to _____**

Trip Number _____ **Sea Dates _____ to _____**

Trip Number _____ **Sea Dates _____ to _____**

Trip Number _____ **Sea Dates _____ to _____**

COVER SHEET

TRIP NUMBER: _____

VESSEL NAME: _____

DATES OF TRIP: _____

OBSERVER NAME: _____

NUMBER OF TOWS/SETS SAMPLED: _____

OBSERVER SUBMITTING DATA: _____

DATE SUBMITTED TO LAB: ____/____/_____

OBSERVER DATA PROOFS:

DATE 1ST COMPLETE PROOF WAS COMPLETED ____/____/_____

DATE 2ND SCAN PROOF WAS COMPLETED ____/____/_____

OBSERVER SIGNATURE: _____

TRIP COMPLETION FORM

Trip #: _____ **Observer:** _____ **Vessel:** _____

Trip Summary - Describe trip chronologically from the time it was assigned until you return home or you receive another assignment. Include travel dates and locations.

_____

_____

_____

_____

Date and Location, data sheets were initially completed

____/____/_____ _____

Date **Location** (i.e. on boat, in motel, or home)

1st complete proof

____/____/_____

Date

2nd complete proof (scan for blanks and flow)

____/____/_____

Date

Note: You should be proofing as the trip progresses, but that does not constitute a "complete" proof. A complete proof should be done after all of the data sheets have been completed.

Photocopies of trip completed

____/____/_____

Date

Note: Always retain all photocopies until observer coordinator gives the okay to destroy.

Data sent to Coordinator/Field Coordinator

____/____/_____

Date

_____ _____

Method of Shipping **Who was the data shipped to? (Coordinator/Field Coordinator)**

	Circle One	If No, explain:
Data sheets signed by captain	Y / N	_____
Receipts completed and signed	Y / N	_____
Two complete proofs	Y / N	_____
Trip copy made	Y / N	_____
All data represented on data sheets is in log book	Y / N	_____
All "required" data sheets completed	Y / N	_____
New species flagged	Y / N	_____
Turtles flagged?	Y / N	_____
Pictures included with data set?	Y / N	_____

OMB No. 0648 - 0345 Approval Expires - 01/31/2012

VESSEL INFORMATION FORM

ORG PRO			MO DY YR	MO DY YR
TRIP NO.	VESSEL CODE	OBSERVER	DATE: START OF TRIP	DATE: END OF TRIP

VESSEL NAME: _____

OBSERVER NAME: _____

VESSEL ID # _____ VESSEL LENGTH (ft): _____ YEAR VESSEL BUILT: _____

VESSEL TYPE (CIRCLE ONE): FREEZER or ICE BOAT

MATERIAL OF HULL CONSTRUCTION (CIRCLE ONE): STEEL WOOD FIBERGLASS FIBERGLASS/WOOD

GROSS TONNAGE: _____ HORSEPOWER OF ENGINE: _____

CREW SIZE (WITHOUT CAPTAIN): _____

This # does not include observers

OWNER NAME: _____

OWNER ADDRESS: _____

_____

CAPTAIN'S NAME: _____

OWNER'S OR CAPTAINS SIGNATURE: _____

TRIP REPORT - SHRIMP BY-CATCH

TRIP # _____

VESSEL NAME _____ ID # _____ (CG DOCUMENTATION #) VSCODE _____ LTH _____ (LENGTH)

PORT OF DEPARTURE _____ (STATE) / _____ (CITY)

OBSERVER NAME _____ ORGANIZATION _____

TRIP DATES _____ (MTH/DAY) - _____ (MTH/DAY) _____ (YEAR) OBSERVER DAYS _____

(dates, total # of travel and sea days allotted for this trip)

DATES AT SEA _____ (MTH/DAY) - _____ (MTH/DAY) _____ (YEAR) SEA DAYS _____

(dates, total # of days at sea from port to port)

24 HR. DAYS FISHED (including tows not sampled)

TOTAL TIME (hours towed) _____ / 24 = _____

STARTING TOW # _____

ENDING TOW # _____

(DO NOT INCLUDE TOWS NOT SAMPLED)

AVERAGE TOW TIME

TOT.TIME HOURS TOWED [SAMPLED] (1)

TOT.TIME HOURS TOWED [UNSAMPLED] (2)

TOT.# TOWS SAMPLED (3)

TOT.# TOWS UNSAMPLED (4)

(1) (2) (3) (4)

(_____+_____)/(_____+_____) = _____

GEAR CONFIGURATION (MAIN NETS)

NET #1 TED	_____	BRD	_____	APPLICABLE
NET #2 TED	_____	BRD	_____	TOW #S
NET #3 TED	_____	BRD	_____	
NET #4 TED	_____	BRD	_____	_____
NET #1 TED	_____	BRD	_____	APPLICABLE
NET #2 TED	_____	BRD	_____	TOW #S
NET #3 TED	_____	BRD	_____	
NET #4 TED	_____	BRD	_____	_____

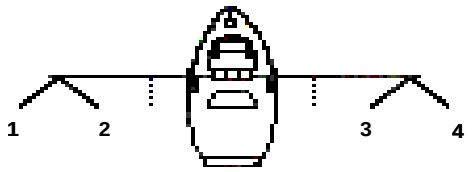
(ENTER N/A FOR NET #s 1&4 IF ONLY TWO NETS ARE PULLED BY YOUR BOAT)

TRY NET

HRL _____ NET# _____ (Location)

FRL _____ APPLICABLE TOW #S _____

CIRCLE TRY NET LOCATION ON DIAGRAM



AREAS FISHED

STAT.AREA #						
INSHORE						
NEARSHORE ≤ 60'						
OFFSHORE > 60'						

(ENTER APPLICABLE STATISTICAL AREA # THEN THE # OF TOWS "SAMPLED" IN THE APPROPRIATE ZONE BLOCK)

TURTLES CAPTURED

	SPECIES	NET #/TYPE*	LAT/LONG	DATE	TOW#
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					

*(ST-STANDARD NET, TB-NET WITH TED AND BRD, T-NET WITH TED ONLY, B-NET WITH BRD ONLY, TR-TRY NET)

TURTLES SIGHTED

	SPECIES	LAT/LONG	DATE
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			

SIGNATURE _____

TRIP REPORT - SHRIMP BY-CATCH

TOWS NOT SAMPLED

VSCODE _____ TRIP DATES _____ TRIP # _____

(A TOW WITH AN OPERATION CODE SHOULD NOT BE LISTED AS UNSAMPLED)

NO.	DATE	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	HOURS TOWED	DEPTH (FEET)	STAT ZONE	REASON NOT SAMPLED
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							
8							
9							
10							
11							
12							
13							
14							
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41							
42							
43							
44							
45							

TRIP REPORT - SHRIMP BY-CATCH

SAMPLED TOW LOG

TRIP # _____

DATE	TOW #	TIME IN	TIME OUT	HOURS TOWED	DEPTH (FEET)	STAT ZONE	EXP NP	CONT NP

PAGE_____ OF _____

GEAR SPECIFICATION FORM

OMB No. 0648 - 0345 Approval Expires - 01/31/2012

BRD TESTING PROTOCOL

Control (C) or Experimental (E)

Gear ID #

ORGPRO

TRIP NO. | VESSEL | TOW NO. | MO DY YR DATE | NET POSITION

SECTION I — NET GEAR MEASUREMENTS

NET TYPE AND HEAD/FOOT ROPE MEASUREMENTS

Net Type

Headrope Length . Feet

Footrope Length . Feet

Comments

LEG LINE MEASUREMENTS

Top Leg Length . Feet

Bottom Leg Length . Feet

Top Leg Dummy . Feet

Bottom Leg Dummy . Feet

TRAWL BODY

Type: Nylon Poly Sapphire Spectra

Mesh Size . Inches

Comments

TRAWL EXTENSION

Type: Nylon Poly Sapphire Spectra None

Mesh Size . Inches

Comments

COD END

Type: Nylon Poly Sapphire Spectra

Mesh Size . Inches Twine Size

Comments

CHAFFING GEAR

Type Whiskers Mesh Metal None

Comments

TICKLER CHAIN

Chain Length . Feet

Chain Size (gauge) . Inches

Comments

DOORS

Type: Aluminum Wood Steel Other

Door Length . Feet None

Door Height . Feet

Dummy Door Length . Feet

Comments

LAZY LINE

Rigging: Elephant Ears Choke

Comments

SECTION II — BRD MEASUREMENTS

BRD TYPE: Fisheye Jones Davis Modified Jones Davis None

Extended Funnel Composite Other

BRD position: Top Offset Spooker Cone: Yes or No

Codend length (# of meshes):

Circumference of the codend (# of meshes):

Distance of escape opening from elephant ear or choke rings: Feet Inches

Distance of escape opening from tie off rings: Feet Inches

Number of meshes the fisheye is offset from top center

Fisheye (BRD) escape opening: Height . Inches Width . Inches

Shape of the escape opening: oval, diamond, square, halfmoon, rectangle, triangle, if other

Specify

(check one)

Look from the mouth of the net, is the BRD located in front of, at, or behind the point of attachment of the elephant ears: **Front** at **Behind**

What is the length of the elephant ear from the point of attachment to the tip of the ring: Inches

Distance from point of attachment of elephant ear to tie off rings Feet Inches

TED/BRD SPECIFICATION FORM

OMB No. 0648 - 0345 Approval Expires - 01/31/2012

BRD TESTING PROTOCOL

ORGPRO			MO DY YR		
TRIP NO.	VESSEL	TOW NO.	DATE	NET POSITION	GEAR ID #

SECTION III TED MEASUREMENTS

TED TYPE ☐ SOFT ☐ HARD

TED DESIGN (CIRCLE ONE) WEEDLESS CURVED BAR STRAIGHT BAR UNKNOWN

TED OPENING ☐ TOP ☐ BOTTOM

TED FUNNEL (YES OR NO) ☐

TED MATERIAL ☐

TED FLAP (YES OR NO) ☐

 # OF TED FLOATS ☐

TED ANGLE (DEGREES) ☐

FLOAT TYPE Material: Shape:

TED DIMENSIONS LENGTH (INCHES) ☐ WIDTH (INCHES) ☐

GEAR DESCRIPTIONS

BRD DESCRIPTION

BRD DIAGRAM

Sketch fisheye including height and width (on the back of this form) or attach cardboard outline (if possible).

GEAR DESCRIPTION

GEAR DIAGRAM

PHOTOGRAPHED (Circle one): Y or N

TRY NET TOW SUMMARY BRD/CHARACTERIZATION

TRIP # ☐☐☐☐☐☐ VESSEL CODE ☐☐☐

TRY NET HEADROPE LENGTH (feet) ☐☐.☐ TRY NET FOOTROPE LENGTH (feet) ☐☐.☐

TRY NET TED TYPE (IF PRESENT) ☐☐☐

STATION TOW # ☐☐☐ STAT. ZONE ☐☐ CHECK ONE: ____ INSHORE ____ NEARSHORE ____ OFFSHORE

TRY NET TOW #	TIME IN	TIME OUT	TURTLE (X) (X)	TRY NET TOW #	TIME IN	TIME OUT	TURTLE (X) (X)

COMMENTS:

STATION TOW # ☐☐☐ STAT. ZONE ☐☐ CHECK ONE: ____ INSHORE ____ NEARSHORE ____ OFFSHORE

TRY NET TOW #	TIME IN	TIME OUT	TURTLE (X) (X)	TRY NET TOW #	TIME IN	TIME OUT	TURTLE (X) (X)

COMMENTS:

STATION TOW # ☐☐☐ STAT. ZONE ☐☐ CHECK ONE: ____ INSHORE ____ NEARSHORE ____ OFFSHORE

TRY NET TOW #	TIME IN	TIME OUT	TURTLE (X) (X)	TRY NET TOW #	TIME IN	TIME OUT	TURTLE (X) (X)

COMMENTS:

STATION TOW # ☐☐☐ STAT. ZONE ☐☐ CHECK ONE: ____ INSHORE ____ NEARSHORE ____ OFFSHORE

TRY NET TOW #	TIME IN	TIME OUT	TURTLE (X) (X)	TRY NET TOW #	TIME IN	TIME OUT	TURTLE (X) (X)

COMMENTS:

OMB No. 0648 - 0345 Approval Expires - 01/31/2012

STATION SHEET BRD EVALUATION

BRD TESTING PROTOCOL

Station ID#

ORG PRO

TRIP NO. | VESSEL | TOW NO. | OBSERVER

MONTH DAY YEAR — START DATE | TIME IN | DEGREE MINUTE SECONDS — LATITUDE IN | DEGREE MINUTE SECONDS — LONGITUDE IN | DEPTH IN (FEET)

MONTH DAY YEAR — STOP DATE | TIME OUT | DEGREE MINUTE SECONDS — LATITUDE OUT | DEGREE MINUTE SECONDS — LONGITUDE OUT | DEPTH OUT (FEET)

HOURS TOWED | KNOTS VESSEL SPEED | STAT ZONE | 1 2 3 4 OPERATION CODE | TOTAL NETS | SEA STATE | NET RETRIEVAL DIRECTION Up (U), Down (D), or Cross (C) Sea | SCALE TYPE Digital (D), Mechanical (M), Both (B) or Unknown (U)

COORDINATOR COMMENTS

Gear ID#

NET POSITION | EXPERIMENTAL (E), or CONTROL (C). | BRD OPEN or BRD CLOSED (circle one) | SAMPLE WEIGHT (kg)

TOTAL CATCH WEIGHT (kg) | SHRIMP TOTAL WEIGHT (kg) | SHRIMP **HEAD ON (O), HEAD OFF (X)**

Attach length frequency form for red snapper

RED SNAPPER TOTAL WEIGHT (kg) | RED SNAPPER TOTAL NUMBER | NO. OF RED SNAPPER ≤ 100 mm | NO. OF RED SNAPPER > 100 mm

Comments: _____

Gear ID#

NET POSITION | EXPERIMENTAL (E), or CONTROL (C). | BRD OPEN or BRD CLOSED (circle one) | SAMPLE WEIGHT (kg)

TOTAL CATCH WEIGHT (kg) | SHRIMP TOTAL WEIGHT (kg) | SHRIMP **HEAD ON (O), HEAD OFF (X)**

Attach length frequency form for red snapper

RED SNAPPER TOTAL WEIGHT (kg) | RED SNAPPER TOTAL NUMBER | NO. OF RED SNAPPER ≤ 100 mm | NO. OF RED SNAPPER > 100 mm

Comments: _____

Characterization sample completed? **YES (Attach species forms).** **NO**

Captain's Signature _____

OMB No. 0648 - 0345 Approval Expires- 01/31/2012

CONDITION & FATE FORM

BRD TESTING PROTOCOL

ORG PRO

TRIP NO. | VESSEL | TOW NUMBER

CONTROL or EXPERIMENTAL — CIRCLE ONE	NET POSITION	CONTROL or EXPERIMENTAL — CIRCLE ONE	NET POSITION

CONDITION AND FATE OF BYCATCH PRIOR TO DISCARDING

Check the appropriate boxes.

FISH		FISH	
MORE THAN 50% OF CATCH ALIVE		MORE THAN 50% OF CATCH ALIVE	
MORE THAN 50% OF CATCH DEAD		MORE THAN 50% OF CATCH DEAD	
NOT DETERMINED (CATCH NOT DUMPED)		NOT DETERMINED (CATCH NOT DUMPED)	
NOT OBSERVED		NOT OBSERVED	
COMMENTS:		COMMENTS:	

INVERTEBRATES		INVERTEBRATES	
MORE THAN 50% OF CATCH ALIVE		MORE THAN 50% OF CATCH ALIVE	
MORE THAN 50% OF CATCH DEAD		MORE THAN 50% OF CATCH DEAD	
NOT DETERMINED (CATCH NOT DUMPED)		NOT DETERMINED (CATCH NOT DUMPED)	
NOT OBSERVED		NOT OBSERVED	
COMMENTS:		COMMENTS:	

PREDATORS OBSERVED

Refer to the table and choose the appropriate number code for each predator type.

PREDATORS OBSERVED				PREDATORS OBSERVED			
SHARKS		OTHER FISH		SHARKS		OTHER FISH	
DOLPHINS		SEA BIRDS		DOLPHINS		SEA BIRDS	
COMMENTS:				COMMENTS:			

0 = Predator not present in area.
1 = Predator observed but "not" feeding on organisms exiting BRD.
2 = Predator observed "feeding" on organisms exiting BRD.
3 = Predator observed but couldn't determine (or could not see) if they were feeding on organisms exiting BRD.
9 = Not determined (Observer was not able to check for predator).

ESTIMATED # OF ORGANISMS SEEN EXITING BRD DURING NET RETRIEVAL

Check the appropriate boxes.

(1 - 10)		NONE		(1 - 10)		NONE	
(10 - 50)		N/A (BRD Closed)		(10 - 50)		N/A (BRD Closed)	
(50 - 100)		NOT OBSERVED (or not able to see.)		(50 - 100)		NOT OBSERVED (or not able to see.)	
(100 OR MORE)				(100 OR MORE)			
COMMENTS:				COMMENTS:			

OMB No. 0648 - 0345 Approval Expires - 01/31/2012

SPECIES CHARACTERIZATION FORM

BRD TESTING PROTOCOL

ORG PRO

TRIP NO. | VESSEL | TOW NUMBER | NET POSITION | Control (C) or Experimental (E)

COMMON NAME	GENUS	SPECIES	NUMBER	SAMPLE WEIGHT (kg)	SELECT WEIGHT (kg)
BROWN SHRIMP	FARFANT	AZTECU		.	.
WHITE SHRIMP	LITOPEN	SETIFE		.	.
PINK SHRIMP	FARFANT	DUORAR		.	.
PENAEUS DISCARD	PENAEUS	DISCAR		.	.
CRABS, LOBSTERS, ETC.	CRUSTAC		1	.	.
OTHER INVERTEBRATES	INVERTE		1	.	.
BLACKNOSE SHARK	CARCHAR	ACRONO		.	.
SPINNER SHARK	CARCHAR	BREVIP		.	.
FINETOOTH SHARK	CARCHAR	ISODON		.	.
BLACKTIP SHARK	CARCHAR	LIMBAT		.	.
ATLANTIC SHARPNOSE SHARK	RHIZOPR	TERRAE		.	.
BONNETHEAD SHARK	SPHYRNA	TIBURO		.	.
SMOOTH DOGFISH SHARK	MUSTELU	CANIS		.	.
FLORIDA SMOOTHHOUND SHARK	MUSTELU	NORRIS		.	.
LEMON SHARK	NEGAPRI	BREVIR		.	.
OTHER SHARKS NOT LISTED	CARCHAR			.	.
TROUT	CYNOSCI			.	.
SNAPPER (OTHER)	LUTJANU			.	.
LANE SNAPPER	LUTJANU	SYNAGR		.	.
CROAKER	MICROPO	UNDULA		.	.
SOUTHERN FLOUNDER	PARALIC	LETHOS		.	.
BLACK DRUM	POGONIA	CROMIS		.	.
COBIA	RACHYCE	CANADU		.	.
VERMILLION SNAPPER	RHOMBOP	AURORU		.	.
RED DRUM	SCIAENO	OCELLA		.	.
SPOTTED SEATROUT	CYNOSCI	NEBULO		.	.
KING MACKEREL	SCOMBER	CAVALL		.	.
SPANISH MACKEREL	SCOMBER	MACULA		.	.
LONGSPINE PORGY	STENOTO	CAPRIN		.	.
OTHER FINFISH-GROUPED	PISCES		1	.	.
DEBRIS	DEBRIS		1	.	.
DOMINANTS / OTHER NOT LISTED					
				.	.
				.	.
				.	.
				.	.
				.	.

PAGE _____ OF _____

OMB No. 0648 - 0345 Approval Expires - 01/31/2012

SPECIES CHARACTERIZATION FORM - MODIFIED SOUTH ATLANTIC PENAEID SHRIMP

ORGPRO TRIP NO. VESSEL TOW NUMBER NET POSITION Control (C) or Experimental (E)

COMMON NAME	GENUS	SPECIES	NUMBER	SAMPLE WEIGHT (kg)	SELECT WEIGHT (kg)
BROWN SHRIMP	FARFANT	AZTECU		.	.
WHITE SHRIMP	LITOPEN	SETIFE		.	.
PINK SHRIMP	FARFANT	DUORAR		.	.
PENAEUS DISCARD	PENAEUS	DISCAR		.	.
BLUE CRAB	CALLINE	SAPIDU		.	.
CRABS, LOBSTERS, ETC.	CRUSTAC		1	.	.
CANNONBALL JELLYFISH	STOMOLO	MELEAG		.	.
JELLYFISH FAMILY	CARYBDE		1	.	.
OTHER INVERTEBRATES	INVERTE		1	.	.
STAR DRUM	STELLIF	LANCEO		.	.
ATLANTIC MENHADEN	BREVOOR	TYRANN		.	.
SHAD	ALOSA			.	.
SPINNER SHARK	CARCHAR	BREVIP		.	.
SILKY SHARK	CARCHAR	FALCIF		.	.
FINETOOH SHARK	CARCHAR	ISODON		.	.
BLACKTIP SHARK	CARCHAR	LIMBAT		.	.
ATLANTIC SHARPNOSE SHARK	RHIZOPR	TERRAE		.	.
BONNETHEAD SHARK	SPHYRNA	TIBURO		.	.
SMOOTH DOGFISH SHARK	MUSTELU	CANIS		.	.
SCALLOPED HAMMERHEAD SHARK	SPHYRNA	LEWINI		.	.
OTHER SHARKS NOT LISTED	CARCHAR			.	.
SPOTTED SEATROUT	CYNOSCI	NEBULO		.	.
SILVER SEATROUT	CYNOSCI	NOTHUS		.	.
WEAKFISH (GRAY TROUT)	CYNOSCI	REGALI		.	.
SEATROUT (GENUS)	CYNOSCI			.	.
SPOT	LEIOSTO	XANTHU		.	.
ATLANTIC CROAKER	MICROPO	UNDULA		.	.
SOUTHERN KINGFISH	MENTICI	AMERIC		.	.
NORTHERN KINGFISH	MENTICI	SAXATI		.	.
RED DRUM	SCIAENO	OCELLA		.	.
BLACK DRUM	POGONIA	CROMIS		.	.
COBIA	RACHYCE	CANADU		.	.
SOUTHERN FLOUNDER	PARALIC	LETHOS		.	.
SUMMER FLOUNDER	PARALIC	DENTAT		.	.
KING MACKEREL	SCOMBER	CAVALL		.	.
SPANISH MACKEREL	SCOMBER	MACULA		.	.
SCUP	STENOTO	CHRYSO		.	.
GAG	MYCTERO	MICROL		.	.
BLACK SEABASS	CENTROP	STRIAT		.	.
BANK SEABASS	CENTROP	OCYURO		.	.
ROCK SEABASS	CENTROP	PHILAD		.	.
FLORIDA POMPANO	TRACHIN	CAROLI		.	.
BLUEFISH	POMATOM	SALTAT		.	.
STURGEON	ACIPENS			.	.
OTHER FINFISH-GROUPED	PISCES		1	.	.
DEBRIS	DEBRIS		1	.	.

PAGE _____ OF _____

OMB No. 0648 - 0345 Approval Expires - 01/31/2012

SPECIES CHARACTERIZATION FORM - MODIFIED SOUTH ATLANTIC ROCK SHRIMP

ORG PRO TRIP NO. VESSEL TOW NUMBER NET POSITION Control (C) or Experimental (E)

COMMON NAME	GENUS	SPECIES	NUMBER	SAMPLE WEIGHT (kg)	SELECT WEIGHT (kg)
ROCK SHRIMP	SICYONI				
ROCK SHRIMP CULL	SICYONI	DISCAR			
BROWN SHRIMP	FARFANT	AZTECU			
WHITE SHRIMP	LITOPEN	SETIFE			
PINK SHRIMP	FARFANT	DUORAR			
PENAEUS DISCARD	PENAEUS	DISCAR			
IRIDESCENT SWIMMING CRAB	PORTUNU	GIBBES			
LONGSPINE SWIMMING CRAB	PORTUNU	SPINIC			
CRABS, LOBSTERS, ETC.	CRUSTAC		1		
OTHER INVERTEBRATES	INVERTE		1		
DUSKY FLOUNDER	SYACIUM	PAPILL			
INSHORE LIZARDFISH	SYNODUS	FOETEN			
SHAD	ALOSA				
SPINNER SHARK	CARCHAR	BREVIP			
SILKY SHARK	CARCHAR	FALCIF			
FINETOOH SHARK	CARCHAR	ISODON			
BLACKTIP SHARK	CARCHAR	LIMBAT			
ATLANTIC SHARPNOSE SHARK	RHIZOPI	TERRAE			
BONNETHEAD SHARK	SPHYRNA	TIBURO			
SMOOTH DOGFISH SHARK	MUSTELU	CANIS			
SCALLOPED HAMMERHEAD SHARK	SPHYRNA	LEWINI			
OTHER SHARKS NOT LISTED	CARCHAR				
SPOTTED SEATROUT	CYNOSCI	NEBULO			
SILVER SEATROUT	CYNOSCI	NOTHUS			
WEAKFISH (GRAY TROUT)	CYNOSCI	REGALI			
SEATROUT (GENUS)	CYNOSCI				
SPOT	LEIOSTO	XANTHU			
ATLANTIC CROAKER	MICROPO	UNDULA			
SOUTHERN KINGFISH	MENTICI	AMERIC			
NORTHERN KINGFISH	MENTICI	SAXATI			
RED DRUM	SCIAENO	OCELLA			
BLACK DRUM	POGONIA	CROMIS			
COBIA	RACHYCE	CANADU			
SOUTHERN FLOUNDER	PARALIC	LETHOS			
SUMMER FLOUNDER	PARALIC	DENTAT			
KING MACKEREL	SCOMBER	CAVALL			
SPANISH MACKEREL	SCOMBER	MACULA			
SCUP	STENOTO	CHRYSO			
GAG	MYCTERO	MICROL			
BLACK SEABASS	CENTROP	STRIAT			
BANK SEABASS	CENTROP	OCYURO			
ROCK SEABASS	CENTROP	PHILAD			
FLORIDA POMPANO	TRACHIN	CAROLI			
BLUEFISH	POMATOM	SALTAT			
STURGEON	ACIPENS				
OTHER FINFISH-GROUPED	PISCES		1		
DEBRIS	DEBRIS		1		

PAGE _____ OF _____

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SPECIES CHARACTERIZATION FORM

SHRIMP CHARACTERIZATION

ORG PRO

TRIP NO. | VESSEL | TOW NUMBER | NET POSITION | Control (C) or Experimental (E)

	COMMON NAME	GENUS	SPECIES	NUMBER	SAMPLE WEIGHT (kg)	SELECT WEIGHT (kg)
1					.	.
2					.	.
3					.	.
4					.	.
5					.	.
6					.	.
7					.	.
8					.	.
9					.	.
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37					.	.
38					.	.
39					.	.

OMB No. 0648 - 0345 Approval Expires - 01/31/2012

LENGTH FREQUENCY FORM (TARGET SPECIES)

BRD TESTING PROTOCOL

ORG PRO

TRIP NO.

VESSEL

TOW NUMBER

NET POSITION

Control (C) or Experimental (E)

GENUS

SPECIES

MEAS.CODE

GENUS

SPECIES

MEAS.CODE

GENUS

SPECIES

MEAS.CODE

	LENGTH (MM)	LENGTH (MM)	LENGTH (MM)
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
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25			
NUMBER OF BROKEN (UNMEASURABLE)			

PAGE _____ OF _____

nations in the International Dolphin Conservation Program that would otherwise be under embargo. The Act also allows U.S. fishing vessels to participate in the yellowfin tuna fishery in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean (ETP) on terms equivalent with the vessels of other nations. NOAA collects information to allow tracking and verification of ''dolphin safe'' and ''non-dolphin safe'' tuna products from catch through the U.S. market.

The regulations implementing the Act are at 50 CFR parts 216 and 300. The recordkeeping and reporting requirements at 50 CFR parts 216 and 300 form the basis for this collection of information. This collection includes permit applications, notifications, tuna tracking forms, reports, and certifications that provide information on vessel characteristics and operations in the ETP, the origin of tuna and tuna products, and certain other information necessary to implement the Act.

II. Method of Collection

Paper applications, other paper records, electronic and facsimile reports, and telephone calls are required from participants. Methods of submittal include transmission of paper forms via regular mail and facsimile as well as electronic submission via e-mail or an ETP site (password protected).

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0648–0387.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission (extension of a current information collection).

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations; individuals or households.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 101.

Estimated Time per Response: 35 minutes for a vessel permit application; 10 minutes for an operator permit application, a notification of vessel arrival or departure, a change in permit operator; a notification of a net modification or a monthly tuna storage removal report; 30 minutes for a request for a waiver to transit the ETP without a permit (and subsequent radio reporting) or for a special report documenting the origin of tuna (if requested by the NOAA Administrator); 10 hours for an experimental fishing operation waiver; 15 minutes for a request for a Dolphin Mortality Limit; 35 minutes for written notification to request active status for a small tuna purse seine vessel; 5 minutes for written notification to request inactive status for a small tuna purse seine vessel or for written notification of the intent to transfer a tuna purse seine vessel to foreign registry and flag; 60 minutes for a tuna tracking form; 60 minutes for a monthly tuna receiving report.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 328.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: $950.

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: August 15, 2011.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 2011–21181 Filed 8–18–11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Southeast Region Bycatch Reduction Device Certification Family of Forms

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before October 18, 2011.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6616, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at *dHynek@doc.gov*).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Rich Malinowski, (727) 824–5305 or *Rich.Malinowski@noaa.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Southeast Region manages the United States (U.S.) fisheries of the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) off the South Atlantic, Caribbean, and Gulf of Mexico under the Fishery Management Plans (FMP) for each Region. The Regional Fishery Management Councils prepared the FMPs pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The regulations implementing the FMPs that have reporting requirements are at 50 CFR part 622.

The recordkeeping and reporting requirements at 50 CFR part 622 form the basis for this collection of information. NMFS Southeast Region requests information from the shrimp fishery participants to certify individual Bycatch Reduction Devices (BRDs). This information, upon receipt, results in an increasingly more efficient and accurate database for management and permitting of the fisheries of the EEZ off the South Atlantic, Caribbean, and Gulf of Mexico.

This request is for an extension of a currently approved information collection.

II. Method of Collection

Paper applications, electronic reports, and telephone calls are required from participants, and methods of submittal include Internet, electronic forms, and facsimile transmission of paper forms.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0648–0345.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission (extension of a currently approved collection).

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 32.

Estimated Time per Response: Station Sheet BRD Form, Species Characterization Form, Length Frequency Form, Condition and Fate Form, and Trip Report/Cover Sheet, one minute; Independent BRD Test Form, 5 minutes; Vessel Information

Application and the Gear Specification Form, 20 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 71.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: $640 in recordkeeping/reporting costs.

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: August 15, 2011.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 2011–21183 Filed 8–18–11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648–XA648

Endangered Species; File No. 16548

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice; receipt of application.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Springfield Science Museum, 21 Edwards Street, Springfield, Massachusetts 01103 [David J. Stier, Responsible Party], has applied in due form for a permit to hold and transport shortnose sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*) for the purposes of enhancement.

DATES: Written, telefaxed, or e-mail comments must be received on or before September 19, 2011.

ADDRESSES: The application and related documents are available for review by selecting ''Records Open for Public Comment'' from the *Features* box on the Applications and Permits for Protected Species (APPS) home page, *https://apps.nmfs.noaa.gov,* and then selecting File No. 16548 from the list of available applications.

These documents are also available upon written request or by appointment in the following office(s):

Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301) 427–8401; fax (301) 713–0376; and

Northeast Region, NMFS, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930; phone (978) 281–9328; fax (978) 281–9394.

Written comments on this application should be submitted to the Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, at the address listed above. Comments may also be submitted by facsimile to (301) 713–0376, or by email to *NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov.* Please include the File No. 16548 in the subject line of the email comment.

Those individuals requesting a public hearing should submit a written request to the Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division at the address listed above. The request should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this application would be appropriate.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jennifer Skidmore or Colette Cairns, (301) 427–8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject permit is requested under the authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR parts 222–226).

The Springfield Science Museum is requesting a permit to continue enhancement activities previously authorized under Permit No. 1555. Activities would include the acquisition of up to five captive-bred, non-releasable shortnose sturgeon. The display would be used to increase public awareness of the shortnose sturgeon and its status by educating the public on shortnose sturgeon life history and the reasons for the species decline. The proposed project to display endangered cultured shortnose sturgeon responds directly to a recommendation from the NMFS recovery plan outline for this species. The permit would not authorize any takes from the wild, nor would it authorize any release of captive sturgeon into the wild. The permit is requested for a duration of five years.

Dated: August 16, 2011.

P. Michael Payne,

Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2011–21253 Filed 8–18–11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648–XZ21

Notice of Availability of a Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Hawaiian Monk Seal Recovery Actions

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of Availability of a Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces the availability of the ''Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for Hawaiian monk seal Recovery Actions.'' Publication of this notice begins the official public comment period for the Draft PEIS. The purpose of the Draft PEIS is to evaluate, in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the potential direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of implementing the alternative approaches for funding, undertaking, and permitting the management, research and enhancement activities on Hawaiian monk seals, as well as other components of the marine ecosystem and human environment.

DATES: See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.**

ADDRESSES: Written comments on the Draft PEIS must be postmarked by October 17, 2011. Comments on the Draft PEIS for this action may be submitted by:

- E-mail: *monkseal@noaa.gov.*
- Mail: 1601 Kapiolani Blvd., Suite 1110, Honolulu, HI 96814.
- Public Hearings: Oral and written comments will be accepted during the upcoming public hearings. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION, PUBLIC HEARINGS** (below) for dates and locations of public hearings for this issue.

The draft PEIS is available on the following Web site: *http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/eis/hawaiianmonkseal.htm.* To be included on a mailing list and receive newsletters and copies of the Draft and Final PEIS, please e-mail *monkseal@noaa.gov* or send your mailing or email address to