

# NOTICE OF OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET ACTION

Date 01/30/2013

Department of Commerce  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

FOR CERTIFYING OFFICIAL: Simon Szykman

FOR CLEARANCE OFFICER: Jennifer Jessup

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, OMB has taken action on your request received 11/26/2012

ACTION REQUESTED: Extension without change of a currently approved collection

TYPE OF REVIEW REQUESTED: Regular

ICR REFERENCE NUMBER: 201210-0648-007

AGENCY ICR TRACKING NUMBER:

TITLE: Mandatory Shrimp Vessel and Gear Characterization Survey

LIST OF INFORMATION COLLECTIONS: See next page

OMB ACTION: Approved without change

OMB CONTROL NUMBER: 0648-0542

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: 01/31/2014

DISCONTINUE DATE:

BURDEN:	RESPONSES	HOURS	COSTS
Previous	2,000	667	0
New	1,563	521	0
Difference			
Change due to New Statute	0	0	0
Change due to Agency Discretion	0	0	0
Change due to Agency Adjustment	-437	-146	0
Change due to PRA Violation	0	0	0

TERMS OF CLEARANCE: This collection has been approved for one year. Prior to renewal, NMFS should consult with persons outside the agency on the aspects identified in item #8 of supporting statement part A and revise the supporting statement accordingly.

OMB Authorizing Official: Dominic J. Mancini  
Acting Deputy Administrator,  
Office Of Information And Regulatory Affairs

## List of ICs

IC Title	Form No.	Form Name	CFR Citation
Mandatory Shrimp Vessel and Gear Characterization Survey	NA	Shrimp Vessel and Gear Characterization Survey	

# 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	2. OMB control number <span style="float: right;">b. <input type="checkbox"/> None</span> a. _____ - _____
3. Type of information collection ( <i>check one</i> ) a. <input type="checkbox"/> New Collection b. <input type="checkbox"/> Revision of a currently approved collection c. <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of a currently approved collection d. <input type="checkbox"/> Reinstatement, without change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired e. <input type="checkbox"/> Reinstatement, with change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired f. <input type="checkbox"/> Existing collection in use without an OMB control number For b-f, note Item A2 of Supporting Statement instructions	4. Type of review requested ( <i>check one</i> ) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Regular submission b. <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency - Approval requested by _____ / _____ / _____ c. <input type="checkbox"/> Delegated
7. Title	5. Small entities Will this information collection have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
8. Agency form number(s) ( <i>if applicable</i> )	6. Requested expiration date a. <input type="checkbox"/> Three years from approval date b. <input type="checkbox"/> Other Specify: _____ / _____
9. Keywords	10. Abstract
11. Affected public ( <i>Mark primary with "P" and all others that apply with "x"</i> ) a. ___ Individuals or households d. ___ Farms b. ___ Business or other for-profit e. ___ Federal Government c. ___ Not-for-profit institutions f. ___ State, Local or Tribal Government	12. Obligation to respond ( <i>check one</i> ) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Voluntary b. <input type="checkbox"/> Required to obtain or retain benefits c. <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory
13. Annual recordkeeping and reporting burden a. Number of respondents _____ b. Total annual responses _____ 1. Percentage of these responses collected electronically _____ % c. Total annual hours requested _____ d. Current OMB inventory _____ e. Difference _____ f. Explanation of difference 1. Program change _____ 2. Adjustment _____	14. Annual reporting and recordkeeping cost burden ( <i>in thousands of dollars</i> ) a. Total annualized capital/startup costs _____ b. Total annual costs (O&M) _____ c. Total annualized cost requested _____ d. Current OMB inventory _____ e. Difference _____ f. Explanation of difference 1. Program change _____ 2. Adjustment _____
15. Purpose of information collection ( <i>Mark primary with "P" and all others that apply with "X"</i> ) a. ___ Application for benefits e. ___ Program planning or management b. ___ Program evaluation f. ___ Research c. ___ General purpose statistics g. ___ Regulatory or compliance d. ___ Audit	16. Frequency of recordkeeping or reporting ( <i>check all that apply</i> ) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Recordkeeping b. <input type="checkbox"/> Third party disclosure c. <input type="checkbox"/> Reporting 1. <input type="checkbox"/> On occasion 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-annually 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Annually 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Biennially 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe) _____
17. Statistical methods Does this information collection employ statistical methods <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	18. Agency Contact (person who can best answer questions regarding the content of this submission)  Name: _____ Phone: _____

## 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

Date

Signature of NOAA Clearance Officer

Signature

Date

**SUPPORTING STATEMENT**  
**MANDATORY SHRIMP VESSEL AND GEAR CHARACTERIZATION SURVEY**  
**OMB CONTROL NO. 0648-0542**

**Introduction**

This request is for extension of this information collection: to collect vessel and gear characterization data from commercial shrimp fishing enterprises participating in the Gulf of Mexico Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) shrimp fishery. The annual data collection began in 2006.

**A. Justification**

**1. Explain why you need to conduct the information collection.**

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is currently collecting census-level information on fishing vessel and gear characteristics in the Gulf of Mexico EEZ shrimp fishery, in order to conduct analyses that will improve fishery management decision-making in this fishery; ensure that national goals, objectives, and requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MFCMA, 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*), National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), Endangered Species Act (ESA), and Executive Order (E.O.) 12866 are met; and quantify achievement of the performance measures in the NMFS' Operating Plans. This information is vital in assessing the economic, social, and environmental effects of fishery management decisions and regulations on individual shrimp fishing enterprises, fishing communities, and the nation as a whole. Recordkeeping requirements under the MFCMA are codified in 50 CFR 622.5.

Collection of vessel and gear characterization and fishing effort information is necessary, supplemental information to the core economic, social, and biological information regarding the fishery that is vital to the Optimum Yield (OY) management of marine fishery resources as mandated under the MFCMA. The term "Optimum" is defined under section 104-297 of the Act, as: (A) will provide the greatest overall benefit to the Nation, particularly with respect to food production and recreational opportunities, and taking into account the protection of marine ecosystems; (B) is prescribed as such on the basis of the maximum sustainable yield from the fishery, as reduced by any relevant economic, social, or ecological factors; and (C) in the case of an overfished fishery, provides for the rebuilding to a level consistent with producing the maximum sustainable yield in such a fishery.

Considerable controversy exists regarding estimates of effort, bycatch (particularly with respect to red snapper and other finfish), turtle interactions, and overcapacity in this fishery. This controversy has led to multiple lawsuits being filed against NMFS and Congressional level inquiries into the adequacy of the science used to generate these estimates and the policy decisions that have resulted. More accurate data and additional analyses continue to be needed in order to increase the certainty and confidence in these estimates and thereby resolve these conflicts.

**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.**

The vessel and gear characterization survey is a census data collection effort of all shrimp vessel owners who possess a valid federal Gulf of Mexico shrimp fishing permit. The Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC) of NMFS will mail this survey to these individuals.

This project is to update existing data and continue data collection efforts for this significant fishery. NMFS currently collects information from commercial shrimp vessels pertaining to their fishing activities, trip dates, landings, and other information through port agents and mandatory dealer reports. Historically, little data related to vessel and gear characteristics at the individual vessel level have been collected through these means.

In 2003, a new voluntary socioeconomic data collection effort was implemented to randomly survey approximately 10% of the offshore shrimp fishing vessels in the Gulf of Mexico. Vessel and gear characterization questions were included in this socioeconomic survey. The questions were included in that survey because, at that time, the permit requirement in the fishery was relatively new. It was determined that the inclusion of an additional form with the permit application was inadvisable since Gulf shrimp fishermen were still adjusting to the new requirement. Therefore, beginning in 2006 these data were collected under Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Control No. 0648-0542 as per the final rule implementing Amendment 13 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Shrimp Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico (71 FR 56039, September 26, 2006).

Requiring the survey completion shortly before permit renewal, with renewal contingent upon survey completion\*, ensures that all permitted fishermen will be included in the census and each fisherman will only be surveyed once per annum. It is anticipated that the effort will be ongoing in future years.

One of the primary purposes of collecting vessel and gear characterization data at the census level is so that it can be used to develop statistically valid sampling designs for the other aforementioned data collection programs. It is believed that the creation of stratified, random sampling designs for these data collection programs is necessary to ensure that the data, and the estimates of the fishery performance measures based on that data, are accurate (i.e., representative of the fishery's actual performance). The various vessel and gear characteristics serve as strata in these sampling designs.

The information collected by this form is used by NMFS economists, social scientists, and biologists to help evaluate the performance of existing regulations (e.g. bycatch reduction devices (BRDs), turtle exclusion devices (TEDs), time/area closures, etc.), and the impacts that changes to those regulations may have on individual fishermen, the shrimp fishing industry as a whole, and fishing communities. The vessel and gear characterization data are linked to various biological, social, and economic data collected by other means.

\* There are no new permits being issued. If a person buys/transfers a permit on January 1, 2013, before this person's permit can be renewed in 2014, he/she would have to complete a survey form. This would also be noted as a condition of renewal in the mail-out the Region sends out in the renewal packet to the new owner of the permit.

It is anticipated that the information collected will be available to the public through technical memoranda and similar publications, or used to support publicly disseminated information, such as analyses contained within Council Amendment documents. Data may be reported according to the various types of nets, TEDs, BRDs or electronic equipment that is generally used, which will allow comparisons and evaluations of alternative vessel and gear configurations by analysts and vessel owners.

### **Justifications for Questions**

The questions contained in this form are needed to collect data as required by Amendment 13 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Shrimp Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico, prepared by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. All but Question 1 are focused on activity in the past year. Questions 1-4 ask for year of vessel purchase, by whom the vessel was operated in the past year, and in what areas and fisheries the vessel was operated. Questions 5-11 pertain to the most frequent type of gear used. Questions 12-13 pertain to the most frequently used bycatch reduction device (BRD) used. Questions 14-26 pertain to the most frequently used turtle exclusion device (TED) used. Question 27 asks for a list of all electronic equipment used on board.

These annually collected data are required to assess the fishery, aiding in the informed management decision making process. This information helps to estimate vessel profitability and aggregate economic impacts associated with the vessel and local shrimp fishing industry. Additionally, economic theory suggests that form of organization (e.g. corporation vs. partnership) can impact who makes decisions within the fishing business, how those decisions are made, and what the goals or objectives of the fishing business might be which in turn will affect the vessel's productivity and economic performance. These data will provide information about the average length of trips and how many days of fishing occurred during a calendar year. This information will help to determine which fishermen are full time participants, who are part-time, the level of dependency that each has on this fishery, and the potential impacts that federal regulations may have on them.

The questions contained in this form will also collect information which will help to assess the relative performance of different BRDs with respect to bycatch reduction and shrimp loss, and thus the socioeconomic and environmental impacts of potential changes in BRD regulations on individual fishing enterprises, fishing communities, and the environment. In addition, information about the types of TEDs actually in use will help to assess the socioeconomic impacts of federally mandated TED regulations on individual fishing enterprises and fishing communities, especially in light of recent changes to the TED regulations. Information on the relative performance of alternative TEDs and BRDs will be useful to both managers and fishermen.

NMFS will retain control over the information and safeguard it from improper access, modification, and destruction, consistent with NMFS' standards for confidentiality, privacy, and electronic information. See response to Question 10 of this Supporting Statement for more information on confidentiality and privacy. The information collection is designed to yield data that meet all applicable information quality guidelines. Prior to dissemination, the information

will be subjected to quality control measures and a pre-dissemination review pursuant to Section 515 of Public Law 106-554.

**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.**

Annual surveys will be mailed out in February-March of each respective year. The survey will be sent out with permit renewal notices with a postage-paid envelope, before the anniversary of the permit holder's birthday. Responses will be entered into a database, designed specifically for this purpose, and data will be periodically transmitted to SERO Fisheries Social Sciences Office. There will be no other means, electronic or otherwise, to submit data or information for the purposes of the form at this time. However, in the future, if an electronic permit renewal system is established, this form could be included as part of that system.

**4. Describe efforts to identify duplication.**

The collection of the data requested in this form is unique in its detail and specificity to individual fishing entities and their general operation. There will be no duplication of the vessel and gear characterization information being gathered from the Gulf of Mexico federal shrimp permit holders. The electronic logbook requirement does not include the information being collected on this form. These data will be linked to the socioeconomic survey data, shrimp dealer landings data collected by NMFS port agents, electronic logbook data, shrimp permit data, and data from the United States (U.S.) Coast Guard Vessel Documentation program. A draft of this form originally went through several internal and external reviews to ensure that there was no duplication.

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

According to recent analyses, it is yet unknown whether all harvesting entities in the Gulf shrimp EEZ fishery are considered small businesses. Currently available information suggests that there may be some "large" entities in the fishery, but this information is not yet conclusive. Therefore, separate requirements based on size of business have not been developed. Only the minimum data to meet the current and future needs of NMFS management, stock assessments, and permitting programs are requested from all applicants. The results of this data collection effort are expected to improve the economic conditions of small fishing entities by affording fishery management agencies the information needed to better consider social and economic factors in management plans and regulations.

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

Without this information, various user groups will continue to express a lack of confidence in NMFS' estimates of effort, bycatch (particularly with respect to red snapper and other finfish), turtle interactions, and overcapacity in this fishery, and thus in the various analyses and assessments that make use of these estimates. This information is vital in assessing the economic, social, and environmental effects of alternative fishery management decisions and

regulations on individual fishing enterprises, fishing communities, and the nation as a whole as per the requirements of MFCMA, NEPA, RFA, ESA, and E.O. 12866. A continued lack of confidence in the data and analyses being used to support controversial policy decisions will only serve to continue and exacerbate existing conflicts between user groups.

Regulations regarding BRDs, TEDs, and time/area closures have changed fairly often in the past, and are likely to change in the future as economic, social, and environmental conditions change. The economic and social conditions in this fishery have been highly unstable in recent years, even more so than historically. Thus, collecting this information on at least an annual basis, as opposed to every two or more years, is necessary to ensure that currently representative data are being used in the various analyses. Without this information, it will be very difficult to accurately evaluate the performance of existing regulations (e.g. BRDs, TEDs, time/area closures, etc.), and the impacts that changes to those regulations may have on individual fishermen, the fishing industry as a whole, and fishing communities. More specifically, it will be difficult to generate accurate analyses of the various policy alternatives that NMFS and the Council may consider with respect to determining the significance of economic impacts on small entities, as required by the Regulatory Flexibility Act; how best to achieve the maximization of net benefits to society, as required by E.O. 12866; and the impacts on the environment, as required by NEPA. Without this information, it will be quite difficult to determine whether: 1) bycatch in the fishery is being minimized to the extent practicable as per the requirements of National Standard 9 to the MFCMA; 2) the fishery is operating in a manner consistent with existing regulations that have been implemented under the ESA; 3) abundance is changing as a result of environmental or human related factors, and to what extent; and 4) the fleet's fishing capacity is at an economically sustainable level.

Without the data collected by the vessel and gear characterization form, confidence in the data and estimates of the fishery performance measures arising from these complementary programs will be low, as will be any policy decisions based thereon. Further, if the information is not collected at the census level, it cannot be used to develop random sampling designs for other data collection programs in this fishery.

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

The collection is consistent with OMB 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 was published on June 20, 2012 (77 FR 36998) soliciting comments on the continuation of this collection of information.

NMFS received one comment from a Federal agency supporting this collection of information.

In March 2012, changes were made to this survey instrument as a result of verbal communications with survey respondents. During the course of data entry, our data input staff contacts permit holders if there are questions regarding their answers to the survey questions. Comments during these contacts are documented, and if we regard them as leading to potential improvements of the form, we incorporate them into the document (in this particular instance, via a change request).

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

No monetary payments or other remuneration will be made.

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

As stated on the survey instrument, all data that are submitted are treated as confidential in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Act (16 U.S.C. 1881a, 402b, Confidentiality of Information) and [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration \(NOAA\) Administrative Order 216-100](#).

**11. 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.**

There are no questions of a sensitive nature included in this survey.

**12. Provide an estimate in hours of the burden of the collection of information.**

It is estimated that the number of respondents will be no more than 1,563, which is the number of permit holders in the fishery. The time per response is estimated to be 20 minutes, for a total annual burden of 521 hours. Information to be gathered in this study should be readily available to the vessel owners, based on their memory or written documentation, such as fishing logs.

**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).**

There will be no financial cost to the public to participate in this study (excluding valuation of respondents' time). As stated in Question 2, surveys are sent out with postage-paid envelopes for their return.

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

The average annualized cost to the Federal government is estimated to be approximately \$13,229.

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

The reduction in number of respondents from 2,000 to 1,563 and total burden hours from 667 to 521, is due to a reduction in the size of the shrimp fishery fleet.

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

These data will be published in summarized format and generalized tables in an annual NMFS technical memorandum or similar report. Project reports will provide documentation about the survey methodologies, survey instrument, and an assessment of the validity of the collected data.

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

Not Applicable.

**18. Explain each exception to the certification statement.**

Not Applicable.

**B. COLLECTIONS OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS**

**1. Describe (including a numerical estimate) the potential respondent universe and any sampling or other respondent selection method to be used. Data on the number of entities (e.g. establishments, State and local governmental units, households, or persons) in the universe and the corresponding sample are to be provided in tabular form. The tabulation must also include expected response rates for the collection as a whole. If the collection has been conducted before, provide the actual response rate achieved.**

This is a mandatory census-level data collection effort. Thus, this data collection effort does not employ statistical methods for developing a random sampling design and the expected response rate is close to 100%. The survey is conducted annually. The respondent universe is all vessels that hold a federal Gulf shrimp permit under the permit moratorium: the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council's action in 2003, which was intended to place a cap, or moratorium, on the number of commercial shrimp fishing vessels allowed to fish in the Gulf.

The number of qualifying vessels is 1,563.

**2. Describe the procedures for the collection, including: the statistical methodology for stratification and sample selection; the estimation procedure; the degree of accuracy needed for the purpose described in the justification; any unusual problems requiring specialized sampling procedures; and any use of periodic (less frequent than annual) data collection cycles to reduce burden.**

The form will be mailed to all moratorium permit holders once a year beginning in February-March of each respective year. No statistical methodology will be employed, estimation will not be required, and no special sampling procedures will be used. The information is needed at the

census level so that it can be used to develop statistically valid sampling designs for several other important data collection programs (e.g. observers, electronic logbooks, socioeconomic surveys, etc.), as explained in Part A, Question 2.

**3. Describe the methods used to maximize response rates and to deal with nonresponse. The accuracy and reliability of the information collected must be shown to be adequate for the intended uses. For collections based on sampling, a special justification must be provided if they will not yield "reliable" data that can be generalized to the universe studied.**

By requiring completion of this form in order to renew a permit, this requirement in itself will serve to maximize response rate. The expected response rate is close to 100% and thus non-response is not an anticipated issue (the 2009 and 2010 response rates were each 89%; responses to the 2011 survey are still being received).

**4. Describe any tests of procedures or methods to be undertaken. Tests are encouraged as effective means to refine collections, but if ten or more test respondents are involved OMB must give prior approval.**

The questions contained in the previous version of OMB Control No. 0648-0542 were part of a voluntary, in-person socioeconomic survey of offshore shrimp vessels in the Gulf of Mexico. The questions were pre-tested and then actually fielded as part of that survey effort. Minor modifications were made to the original survey questions to reduce the burden on respondents and to reflect current regulations.

**5. Provide the name and telephone number of individuals consulted on the statistical aspects of the design, and the name of the agency unit, contractor(s), grantee(s), or other person(s) who will actually collect and/or analyze the information for the agency.**

Rick A. Hart, Ph.D.\*  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Southeast Fisheries Science Center  
Galveston Laboratory  
(409) 766-3404  
\*Responsible for data collection and analysis

Michael D. Travis, Ph.D.  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Southeast Regional Office  
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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Southeast Fisheries Science Center  
4700 Avenue U  
Galveston, TX 77551

OMB Control No. 0648-0542  
Expiration Date: 11/30/2012

## GULF SHRIMP VESSEL & GEAR CHARACTERIZATION FORM

### INSTRUCTIONS

*(Incomplete or illegible forms will be returned.)*

Please Note: It is **REQUIRED** that the following form be returned in order to be eligible to renew your **FEDERAL PERMIT APPLICATION FOR VESSELS FISHING IN THE EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE (EEZ)** to the following address: NOAA Fisheries Galveston Laboratory, Attention: Rebecca Smith, 4700 Avenue U, Galveston, TX 77551. If you have a question regarding the form, please call (409) 766-3783 between 8 am - 4:30 pm CST.

**QUESTION 1** Enter the year that you purchased or leased the vessel, regardless of whether it was new or used at the time.

**QUESTION 2** For part a, indicate whether the vessel was **most frequently** operated by the owner or someone other than the owner (a hired captain) in 2012. For part b, indicate the number of crewmembers **typically** on board during 2012, including the captain.

**QUESTION 3** Answer 'yes' if the vessel was used to shrimp in Federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico even **one** time during 2012.

**QUESTION 4** Indicate the **total** number of days at sea and the number of trips for this vessel in the Gulf of Mexico shrimp fishery during 2012 (including from bays, bayous, State inshore and offshore waters, or Federal waters). For example, if the vessel took 10 trips and each trip lasted 10 days, then the **total** days at sea for 2012 would be 100.

**QUESTIONS 5 – 11** Indicate the characteristics for the **one** primary gear type **most frequently** used on this vessel in 2012. Also provide the characteristics of the trawl net used with this gear type.

**QUESTIONS 12 - 13** Indicate the **one** BRD type **most frequently** used on this vessel in 2012.

**QUESTIONS 14 - 26** Indicate and provide additional details for the **one** TED type **most frequently** used on this vessel in 2012.

**QUESTION 27** Indicate **all** types of **ELECTRONIC** equipment that were on-board this vessel in 2012.

KNOWINGLY SUPPLYING FALSE INFORMATION IS A VIOLATION OF FEDERAL LAW PUNISHABLE BY A FINE AND/OR IMPRISONMENT.

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 this burden estimate or any other suggestions for reducing this burden to Rick Hart, NMFS, Fisheries Management Branch, 4700 Avenue U, Galveston, TX, 77551.

All data submitted will be handled as confidential material in accordance with **NOAA Administrative Order 216-100, Protection of Confidential Fishery Statistics**. Notwithstanding any other provisions of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subjected to a penalty for failure 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.

**GULF SHRIMP VESSEL AND GEAR CHARACTERIZATION FORM****Permit # :**

Permit Holder Name:

Vessel Name:

State Registration #:

USCG Vessel ID:

Please provide any missing or incorrect information in the above heading.

1. What year did you purchase or lease this vessel?

Purchase or Lease Year \_\_\_\_\_

2. a. In 2012, this vessel was **most frequently** operated by:  
(Check the appropriate box.)

 owner hired-captain BOTH (owner and captain) none (not shrimping)

- b. In 2012, what was the **typical** number of crew on the vessel, **including captain**?  
If not shrimping, write N/A.

Total number of crew and captain \_\_\_\_\_

3. In 2012, did you shrimp in Federal waters (i.e. the EEZ<sup>1</sup>) of the Gulf of Mexico?  
(Check the appropriate box.)

 Yes No

4. In 2012, what was the **total number of days at sea and the total number of trips** this vessel took in the Gulf of Mexico shrimp fishery (**including State inshore and offshore & Federal offshore trips**)? *The total days at sea should not exceed 365 days.*

Total Days at sea during the entire year \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Trips taken during the entire year \_\_\_\_\_

5. What was the **most frequently** used **Gear Type** in 2012?  
**Choose a code from the lists below. If other, please specify.**  
(See Figure 1 on Page 3 for common gear types.)

Code   Gear Type

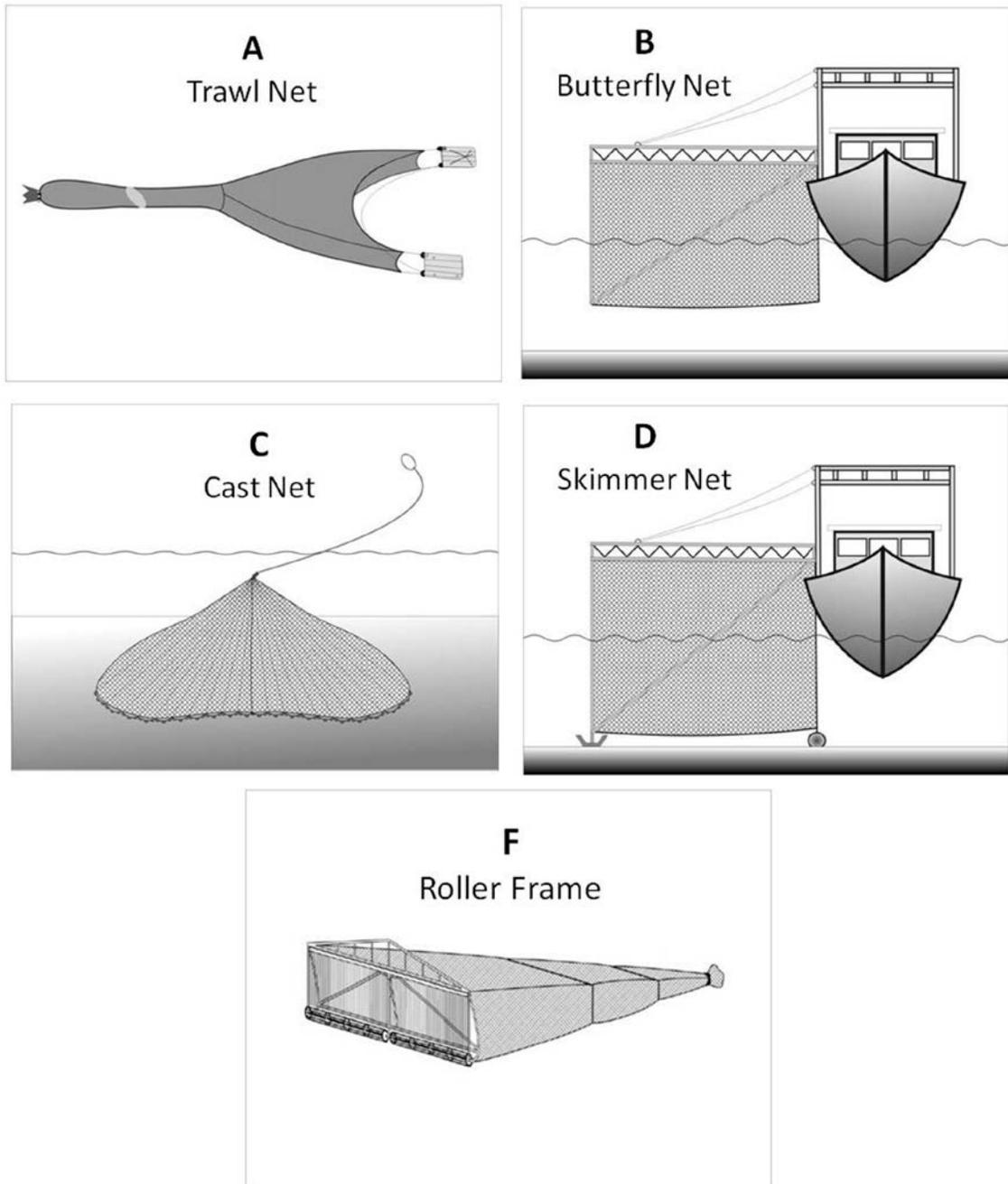
\_\_\_ A   Trawl  
\_\_\_ B   Butterfly Net  
\_\_\_ C   Cast Net

Code   Gear Type

\_\_\_ D   Skimmer Net  
\_\_\_ F   Roller Frame  
\_\_\_ G   Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>1</sup>The EEZ portion of the fishery is from nine (9) miles outward off of the Texas and West Florida coasts, and from three (3) miles outward off the coasts of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama.

**Figure 1. Common Gear Types.** (Use for Question 5, use letters above picture.)



6. What was your **most frequently** used **Net Type** in 2012?  
**Choose a code from the lists below.** If other, please specify.

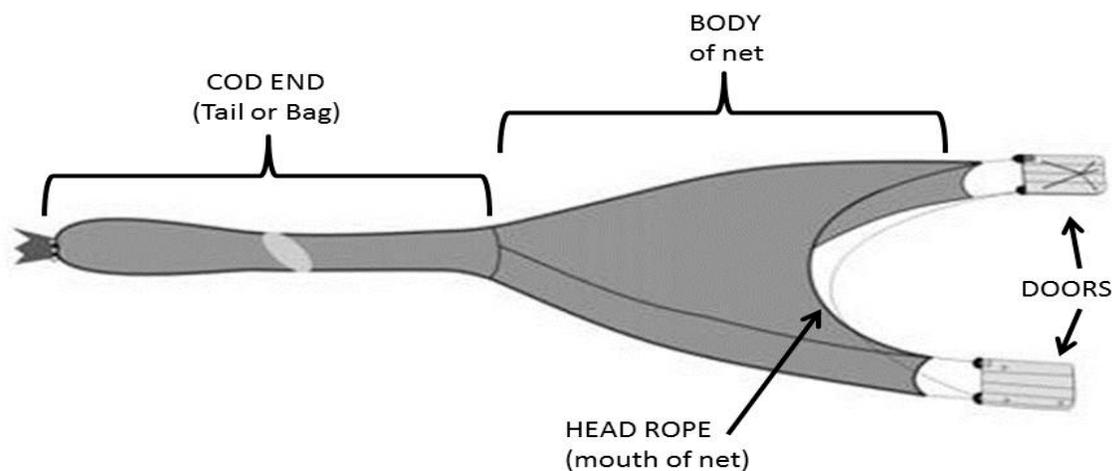
<u>Code</u>	<u>Net Type</u>
___	H 2 Seam Balloon
___	J 4 Seam Balloon
___	K Box
___	L Flat

<u>Code</u>	<u>Net Type</u>
___	M Western Jib
___	N Add-on Bib
___	O Built-in Bib (e.g. mongoose, cobra, etc.)
___	P Other (specify) _____

7. What was the **number of nets** used at one time for your **most frequently** used gear type in 2012? **Do not include the try net in total number of nets used at one time.**

Number of Nets used at one time \_\_\_\_\_

**Figure 2. Basic Trawl Diagram with parts identified.** (Use for Questions 8 - 11).



8. What was the **Headrope Length or Frame Width** (in feet) for your **most frequently** used gear type in 2012? (**Note: Measurement is width of mouth of one net.**)

Headrope Length or Frame Width \_\_\_\_\_ feet

9. What was the **Headrope Length or Frame Width** (in feet) for your Try Net in 2012? (If no Try Net was used, write "N/A" in the blank.)

Headrope Length or Frame Width of Try Net \_\_\_\_\_ feet

10. What was the **Mesh Type (net material)** for your **most frequently** used gear in 2012? **Choose a code from the lists below for each question.** If other, please specify.

**Body of Net**

<u>Code</u>	<u>Mesh Type</u>
___ S	Nylon
___ T	Spectra
___ U	Poly
___ V	Sapphire
___ W	Other (specify) _____

**Codend (Tail or Bag)**

<u>Code</u>	<u>Mesh Type</u>
___ S	Nylon
___ T	Spectra
___ U	Poly
___ V	Sapphire
___ W	Other (specify) _____

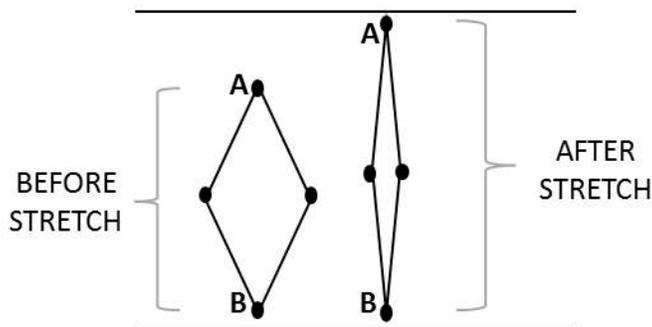
11. What was the **Mesh Size (in inches)** for your **most frequently** used gear type? (See Figure 3 for measurement illustration.)

**Body of Net** \_\_\_\_\_ inches

**Codend (Tail or Bag)** \_\_\_\_\_ inches

**Figure 3. Illustration on how to measure Mesh Size.** (Use for Question 11.)

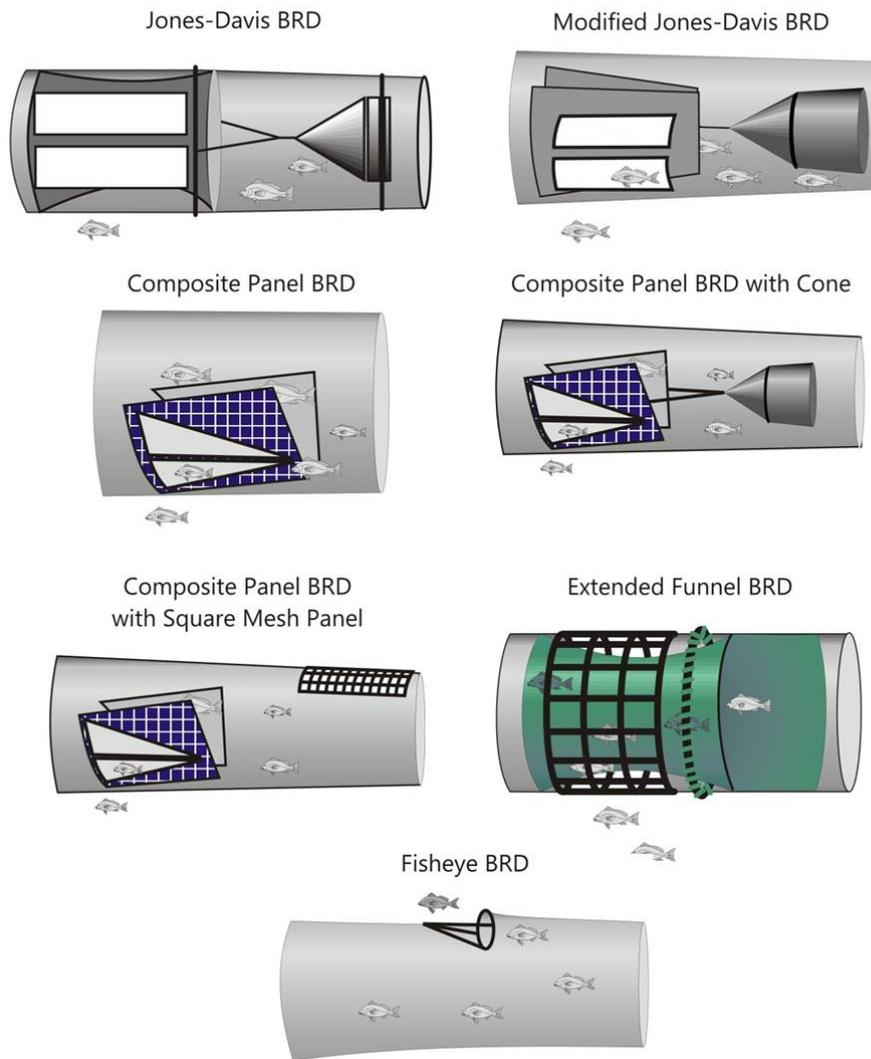
Use the measurement of the distance between the centers of two opposite knots (points A & B) after the mesh has been stretched.



12. In 2012, what is the type of BRD (bycatch reduction device) you used **most frequently** ? Check the appropriate box below. (See Figure 4.)

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jones-Davis               | <input type="checkbox"/> Modified Jones-Davis             | <input type="checkbox"/> Composite Panel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Composite Panel with Cone | <input type="checkbox"/> Composite Panel with Square Mesh |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Extended Funnel           | <input type="checkbox"/> Fisheye                          | <input type="checkbox"/> None (N/A)      |

Figure 4. Common Bycatch Reduction Devices. (Use for Question 12.)



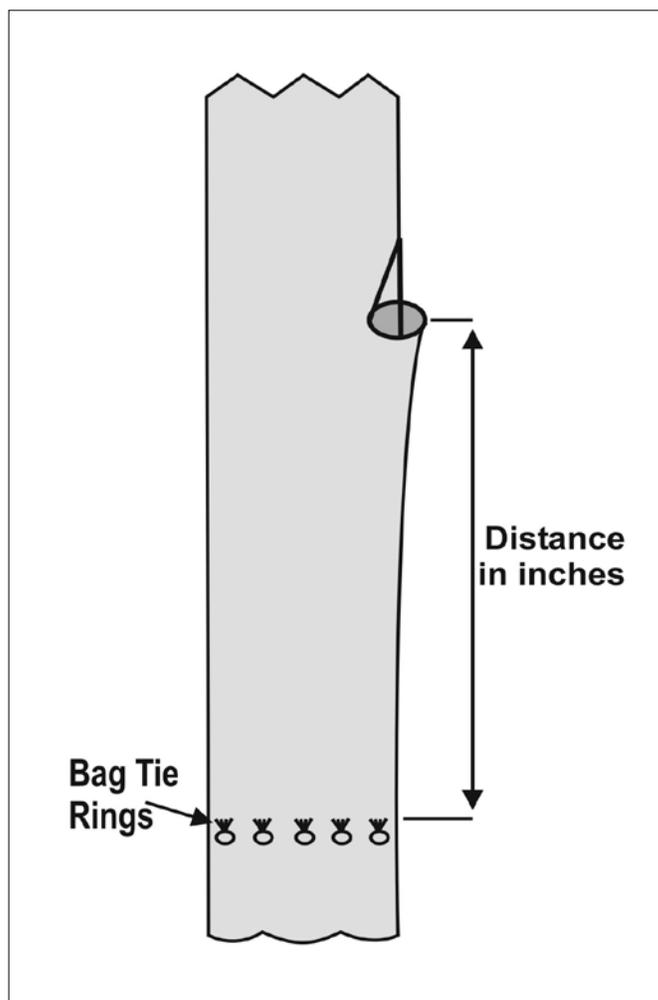
13. If a Fisheye BRD was used, what was the distance from the bag tie off rings to the BRD?

If you did not use a Fisheye BRD, write "N/A" in the blank.

(See Figure 5 for measurement illustration.)

Distance in inches: \_\_\_\_\_

Figure 5. Illustration on how to measure distance from BRD to tie off rings (Use for Question 13.)



14. In 2012, what Type of TED (turtle excluder device) did you use **most frequently**?  
**Please check only one code.**

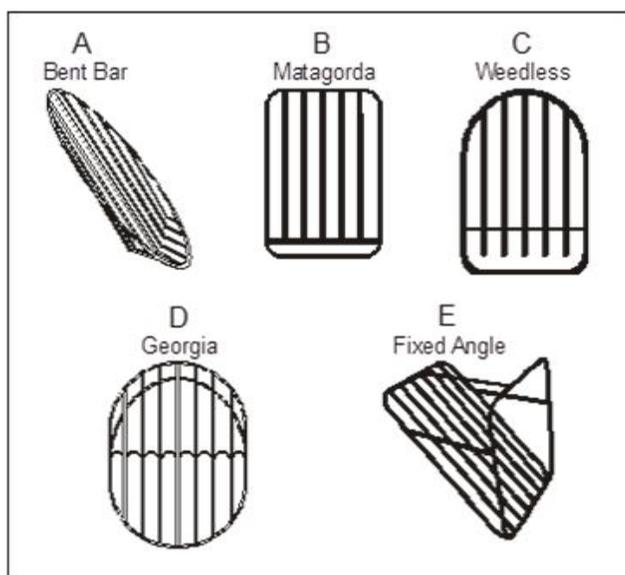
- \_\_\_\_\_ Single Grid Hard TED →→→ (Questions 15 - 19 and question 27)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Parker Soft TED →→→→→ (Questions 20 - 21 and question 27)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Hooped Hard TED →→→→→ (Questions 22 - 26 and question 27)
- \_\_\_\_\_ None (N/A) →→→→→→→ (Question 27)

## SINGLE GRID HARD TED

If you most frequently used a Single Grid Hard TED in 2012, answer questions 15 – 19.

15. What was the **most frequently** used **Grid Style**? Check only one code.  
 A = Bent Bar  
 B = Matagorda  
 C = Weedless  
 D = Georgia  
 E = Fixed Angle
16. What was the **Grid Size (width x height)** of your Single Grid Hard TED? The measurement is the measurement of the outside frame of the TED.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ inches x \_\_\_\_\_ inches
17. What was the **Opening Size** of your Single Grid Hard TED?  
**Check the most frequently used Opening Size.** If other, please specify size in inches.  
 A = Double Cover (inshore & offshore)  
 B = 71" (inshore & offshore)  
 C = 44" (inshore only)  
 D = Other size opening (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_ inches
18. What was the **Opening Direction** of your Single Grid Hard TED?  
**Check the most frequently used direction.**  
 A = Top Opening  
 B = Bottom Opening  
 C = Both Top and Bottom Opening
19. Did you use an **Accelerator Funnel** on your Single Grid Hard TED? Check Yes or No.  
 Yes  
 No

**Go to Question 27 (skip 20 - 26)**



## PARKER SOFT TED

If you most frequently used a Parker Soft TED in 2012, answer questions 20 and 21.

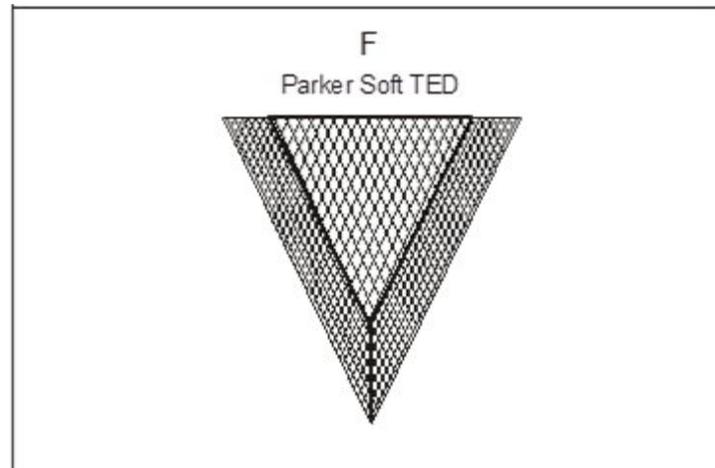
20. What was the **Opening Type/Size** of your Parker Soft TED? **Check the correct opening size.**

- 1 = 56" cut (inshore only)  
 2 = 96" cut (offshore / inshore)  
 0 = Other (Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_ inches

21. Did you use a **flap** on your Parker Soft TED (Offshore Only)? **Check Yes or No.**

- Yes  
 No

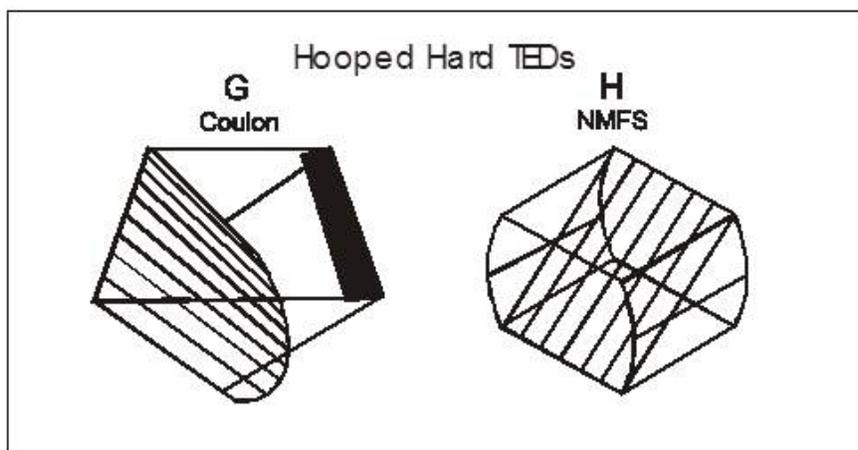
**Go to Question 27 (skip 22 - 26)**



### HOOPED HARD TED

If you most frequently used a Hooped Hard TED in 2012, answer questions 22 - 26.

22. Check your **most frequently** used **Grid Style**. Check only one style.  
 G = Coulon  
 H = NMFS
23. What was the **most frequently** used **Frame Size** of your Hooped Hard TED? Check the **minimum size you used**. If other, please specify measurement in inches.  
 A = Inshore minimum  
 B = Offshore minimum  
 C = Other (provide measurement) \_\_\_\_\_ inches
24. What was the **most frequently** used **Opening Size** of your Hooped Hard TED? Check only one **size**. If other, please specify opening size in inches.  
 A = Double Cover (inshore & offshore)  
 B = 71" (inshore & offshore)  
 C = 44" (inshore only)  
 D = Other size opening (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_ inches
25. What was the **Opening Direction** of your Hooped Hard TED? Check only one **direction**.  
 A = Top Opening  
 B = Bottom Opening  
 C = Both Top and Bottom Opening
26. Did you use an **Accelerator Funnel** on your Hooped Hard TED? Check **Yes or No**.  
 Yes  
 No



27. In the list below, please check off the types of **ELECTRONIC** equipment (either in the wheelhouse or mounted on the gear) that were on-board your vessel in 2012. Note that this list contains types of equipment that may not be presently used in the Gulf of Mexico shrimp fishery, but are used in other fisheries for which this type of information is being collected.

Please Check	Item
	Cell phone
	VHF radio
	CB Radio
	Single sideband radio
	Satellite phone
	Fax
	Plotter
	Computer (including software)
	Printer
	Hailer (Boat intercom)
	Loran
	Vessel Tracking System
	Radar
	Global Positioning System (GPS)
	Auto Pilot
	EPIRB
Paper <input type="checkbox"/> Video <input type="checkbox"/> Digital <input type="checkbox"/>	Echo Sounder/Depth Recorder (please check all which you have):
	Electronic Compass
	Satellite Navigation System (SatNav)
	Radio Direction Finder
	Weather Satellite Receiver
	Wind Meter
	Net Pingers
	Temperature Profiling System
	Water Temperature Sensor
	Single direction sonar
	Multiple direction sonar
	Water salinity Sensor
	Other (please specify) _____

Authorized Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

On its domestic sales, Pfizer would be able to choose the duty rate during customs entry procedures that applies to the ibuprofen pharmaceutical products (duty-free) for foreign-status ibuprofen active ingredient (duty rate, 6.5%). Customs duties also could possibly be deferred or reduced on foreign-status production equipment.

Public comment is invited from interested parties. Submissions shall be addressed to the Board's Executive Secretary at the address below. The closing period for their receipt is July 30, 2012.

A copy of the notification will be available for public inspection at the Office of the Executive Secretary, Foreign-Trade Zones Board, Room 2111, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20230-0002, and in the "Reading Room" section of the Board's Web site, which is accessible via [www.trade.gov/ftz](http://www.trade.gov/ftz).

For further information, contact Diane Finver at [Diane.Finver@trade.gov](mailto:Diane.Finver@trade.gov) or (202) 482-1367.

**Elizabeth Whiteman,**

*Acting Executive Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2012-15093 Filed 6-19-12; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Mandatory Shrimp Vessel and Gear Characterization Survey

**AGENCY:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**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 August 20, 2012.

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

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or

copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Anik Clemens, (727) 551-5611 or [Anik.Clemens@noaa.gov](mailto:Anik.Clemens@noaa.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Abstract

This request is for extension of a current information collection.

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) authorizes the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) to prepare and amend fishery management plans for any fishery in waters under its jurisdiction. National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) manages the shrimp fishery in the waters of the Gulf of Mexico under the Shrimp Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The regulations for the Gulf Shrimp Vessel and Gear Characterization Form may be found at 50 CFR 622.5(a)(1)(iii)(C).

Owners or operators of vessels applying for or renewing a commercial vessel moratorium permit for Gulf shrimp must complete an annual Gulf Shrimp Vessel and Gear Characterization Form. The form will be provided by NMFS at the time of permit application and renewal. Compliance with this reporting requirement is required for permit issuance and renewal.

Through this form, NMFS is collecting census-level information on fishing vessel and gear characteristics in the Gulf of Mexico Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) shrimp fishery to conduct analyses that will improve fishery management decision-making in this fishery; ensure that national goals, objectives, and requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), Endangered Species Act (ESA), and Executive Order (E.O.) 12866 are met; and quantify achievement of the performance measures in the NMFS' Operating Plans. This information is vital in assessing the economic, social, and environmental effects of fishery management decisions and regulations on individual shrimp fishing enterprises, fishing communities, and the nation as a whole.

The burden estimates for this information collection have changed due to adjustments. Currently, there are approximately 1,563 permitted vessels in the Gulf shrimp fishery—fewer vessels than in the previous renewal.

##### II. Method of Collection

Respondents are mailed hard copies of the form. The forms must be

completed and mailed back to NMFS before their permits expire.

##### III. Data

*OMB Control Number:* 0648-0542.

*Form Number:* None.

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

*Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit organizations.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 1,563.

*Estimated Time per Response:* Reports, 20 minutes.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 521.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public:* \$0 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: June 14, 2012.

**Gwellnar Banks,**

*Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

[FR Doc. 2012-14987 Filed 6-19-12; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### Notice of Availability of a Draft Programmatic Environmental Assessment for Office of Coast Survey Hydrographic Survey Projects

**AGENCY:** Office of Coast Survey (OCS), National Ocean Service (NOS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce.