



The Shrimp e-Advocate

FYI

APRIL 2009

The Southern Shrimp Alliance (SSA) is a non-profit alliance of members of the U.S. shrimp industry in eight states committed to preventing the continued deterioration of America's shrimp industry and to ensuring the industry's future viability. SSA serves as the national voice for the shrimp fishermen and processors in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Texas.

Quick Links

[SSA Website](#)

Board of Directors

North Carolina:

Nancy Edens
keywestnative57@yahoo.com

PD Mason
cmason5@ec.rr.com

South Carolina:

Clay Cable
claycable@aol.com

Kerry Abraham
iateone2@embargmail.com

Georgia:

Elaine Knight
kseafood@bellsouth.net

FYI

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

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

Steve.Branstetter@noaa.gov
727-824-5305, FAX 727-824-5308

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

April 13, 2009

FB09-024

Reminder of Upcoming Changes for Bycatch Reduction Devices in the Gulf of Mexico Shrimp Fishery

NOAA Fisheries Service reminds all shrimp vessel owners and operators of upcoming changes in the use of bycatch reduction devices (BRDs) in the Gulf of Mexico shrimp fishery. In summary, these changes:

- Decertify the Expanded Mesh BRD
- Decertify the Gulf Fisheye BRD
- Establish a more restrictive placement for the Fisheye BRD.

These changes are effective May 18, 2009.

A BRD is certified for use in the shrimp fishery if testing demonstrates the BRD reduces finfish bycatch 30 percent by weight. New data collected aboard Gulf of Mexico shrimp vessels indicate that a fisheye-type device placed more than 9 feet forward in the cod end of the net (Gulf Fisheye BRD) does not exclude 30 percent of the finfish by weight. Therefore, beginning May 18, 2009, the Fisheye BRD may not be placed farther forward than 9 feet from the tie-off rings.

Mike Dubberly
daddysboy1775@aol.com

Mississippi:

Steve Bosarge
stevebosarge@hotmail.com

Tommy Schultz
revahopkins@bellsouth.net

Florida:

Sal Versaggi

sal@versaggi-shrimp.com

Chris Gala
tricocg@aol.com

Alabama:

Ernie Anderson
and5612@comcast.net

Mickey Johnson
jbuiltinc@aol.com

Louisiana:

Cathy Blanchard
madamecheverette@myviscom.com

Scott St. Pierre
momanddad@mobiletel.net

Texas:

Wilma Anderson
texasshrimp@clearwire.net

CraigWallis
Wallis.shrimp@yahoo.com

Similarly, it appears the effectiveness of the Expanded Mesh BRD has decreased. Recent tests of the Expanded Mesh BRD in the Gulf of Mexico indicate it is only achieving about a 17 percent reduction in the weight of total finfish bycatch. Beginning May 18, 2009, the Expanded Mesh BRD may not be used in the Gulf of Mexico.

Five different BRD designs can be used in the Gulf of Mexico shrimp fishery. These include the Fisheye (less than 9 feet from the tie-off rings), Jones-Davis, Modified Jones-Davis, Composite Panel, and Extended Funnel BRDs. Illustrations of the various BRD designs, and installation instructions for some of the BRDs can be found at <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sf/BRDs.htm>.

Additional questions regarding BRDs and their installation should be directed to the Harvesting Technology Branch, NOAA Fisheries Service, Mississippi Laboratories, Pascagoula Facility, 3209 Frederic Street, Pascagoula, Mississippi 39568-1207; phone 228-762-4591.