

Discussing a collaborative path forward to understand inshore shrimping effort to inform sea turtle restoration efforts in the Gulf of Mexico

Presented by: Rebeccah Hazelkorn

Efforts co-managed by: Jamie Schubert and Sara Wissmann



Introduction and Background



- Original Project Title:
 - Pilot Implementation of Automatic Identification System in the Gulf of Mexico Inshore Shrimp Fishery to Inform Efforts to Reduce Sea Turtle Bycatch
- Funded by the Deepwater Horizon Regionwide Trustee Implementation Group in late 2021
- Project aims to characterize shrimping effort in GOM state waters compared to sea turtle distribution data
- Project Goal: To inform future restoration projects that could reduce sea turtle interactions with the shrimp fishers
- This project is intended to provide benefits to the shrimp industry and restoration benefits to sea turtles



What and Where

- Exploring ideas that will help optimize sea turtle restoration efforts in the GOM
- One way is to better understand the effort of state-permitted shrimp vessels by potential use of location recording devices such as VMS or AIS units
- Engage participation from state permitted shrimpers in all 5 Gulf states

Who

• Looking to collaborate on a volunteer basis with shrimpers from all Gulf states in the dual or state-permitted shrimp fishery
• We are specifically seeking to collaborate with shrimpers in the state permitted shrimp fishery but there may be opportunities to collaborate with ongoing and upcoming VMS efforts in the dual permitted portion of the fleet
• NOAA is seeking advice on collaborative partners to help spread the word about this potential project, its benefits, how to get involved, and the best approaches to execute

When

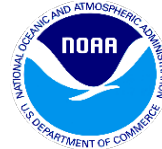
□ The concepts and goals were approved in the Regionwide Trustee Implementation Group Restoration Plan #1 in Sept 2021
□ Funding was approved to collect data over 2 shrimping seasons. Any unit voluntarily installed vessels will remain the property of that vessel/shrimper beyond the life of the project.
□ Given the short project duration, we are eager to begin conversations and exploring ideas

Why

□ Data from this project will support future sea turtle restoration project ideas
□ Broad participation in this project will help guide future restoration efforts
□ We want to start conversations with you all so this, and future projects are win-win for the industry and sea turtle restoration

Closing remarks

□ This project is NOT REGULATORY – we are seeking collaborators and volunteers to help gather mutually beneficial information
□ We are hoping to have conversations on the realm of possibilities and willingness to engage in a project of this type



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Contact Info

- Rebeccah Hazelkorn
 - Southeast Regional Office (St. Petersburg, FL)
 - Rebeccah.hazelkorn@noaa.gov
- Jamie Schubert
 - Restoration Center (Galveston, Tx)
 - Jamie.schubert@noaa.gov
- Sara Wissmann
 - Office of Protected Resources (D.C.)
 - Sara.wissmann@noaa.gov

