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# Shrimp cELB interim data collection process – SD card returns

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## (Another) Brief review of issue

1. cELB units ceased transmitting information to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) in December 2020. (but still collecting data)
2. Until a new data collection program is implemented NMFS will continue to use the cELB units. Data will be manually obtained on SD cards returned by the shrimpers.
3. Provide instructions for fishermen to remove old SD and install new SD card. Send new card, with return address mailer for the old card to go to Galveston Lab.
4. GSMFC set up table on their Oracle server to load data from SD cards and developed scanning process to isolate virus infected cards.
5. Based on cards returned, NMFS has adjusted outreach procedures

First mailing May 2021,

Second mailing January 2022,

Third mailing June 2022,

Fourth mailing January 2023

Fifth mailing June 2023

Sixth mailing January 2024



# Summary of outreach to date

- Improving outreach
  - Sought help from Gulf Shrimp Council AP
  - Sought help from Gulf Outreach team
  - Improved information on internet / fact sheet
  - Mailing reminder postcards
  - Mailed letter by certified mail emphasizing compliance responsibilities
  - Open to other suggestions
  
- “Boots on the ground” approach to retrieve SD cards directly
  - Trial processes funded by the Southern Shrimp Alliance
  - Funds for this activity have run out
  - Began April 2023 and continued through December 2023
    - (see return rates for mailings 4 and 5 on next slide)

# SD card returns

	Date	Number sent	Number returned	“Percent returned” **
Mailing 1	June 2021	493	314	64%
Mailing 2	January 2022	456	265	58%
Mailing 3	June 2022	448	306	68%
Mailing 4	January 2023	423	322	76%
Mailing 5	June 2023	277	237	86%
Mailing 6	January 2024	390	133	34% (so far)

\*\* Percent returned is based on the time period



## Additional information

1. We greatly appreciate the goodwill and patience of GSMFC but we realize it is limited.
2. Intensive “boots on the ground” efforts did improve returns. But number of vessels reporting is still well below the original sample size.
3. Data quality is a big issue. We have received data from **412** ELB devices. Of these **181** (**44%**) have given us what we would call "good" data using the criteria that no more than 20% of data received is "bad" (where bad is defined as having a future date or null or bad GPS values).
4. Many older cELB units are failing and we don't have the resources/ability to program “new” devices.
5. We'll keep sending reminders and are open to other outreach efforts.
6. Remember: This is a STOPGAP process. Never designed to be a permanent solution.