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Shrimp cELB interim data collection process – update and outreach efforts

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Shrimp Advisory Panel
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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



Data collection status

- **Mailing 1:** 493 replacement SD cards (including letter, instructions, pre-paid return envelope) sent out June 1, 2021
 - 314 cards were returned (**64%**), 280 contained data (**57%**)
 - Two rounds of reminders (written and email) were sent
- **Mailing 2:** 456 replacement SD cards were sent out January 14, 2022
 - List of vessel status sent to Gulf Council Shrimp AP and Outreach Committee members in December 2021
 - 265 cards have been returned (**58%**), 242 contained data (**53%**)
 - Reminder postcards sent April 25, 2022
- Compliance letter mailed as recommended by Shrimp AP – June 17, 2022
- **Mailing 3:** 448 replacement SD cards mailed on June 21, 2022
 - List of vessel status sent to Shrimp AP and Outreach Committee members June 10, 2022
 - 306 cards have been returned (**68%**), 284 contained data (**63%**)
 - More “strongly worded” compliance letter sent by certified mail – Oct 24, 2022

Data collection status

- **Mailing 4 (returns in progress):** 423 replacement SD cards sent out January 23, 2023
 - So far, 135 SD cards have been returned (**32%**)
 - Sent with feedback card
 - Postcard reminders will be sent in April
 - Follow up with the non-responders via certified mail
- **Feedback card**
 - 74 “no feedback”
 - 18 next trip date
 - 13 need equipment
 - 5 damaged in lan
 - 7 docked
 - 15 not shrimping
 - 1 sold vessel
 - 1 transfer



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 recent letter emphasizing compliance responsibilities
 - Open to other suggestions

- Note: Previous suggestion to use NMFS port agents to retrieve SD cards
 - We will provide port agents with informational materials and suggest they interact with shrimpers as much as is possible
 - Issues:
 - Other duties
 - No more GSS shrimp interviews
 - Fewer agents, less geographical coverage (e.g 2 in TX, was 5)