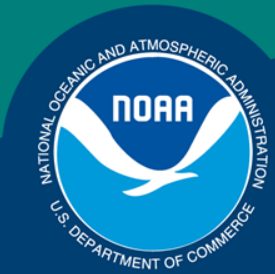


Science, Service, Stewardship



SE Bycatch Monitoring Update

Southeast Fisheries Science Center
September 2012

**NOAA
FISHERIES
SERVICE**

NOAA



SE Bycatch Monitoring Fisheries monitored

- National bycatch report lists 43 fisheries in the continental southeast
- Observer programs exist for 6 of those fisheries
 - South Atlantic shrimp trawl, Gulf of Mexico shrimp trawl, pelagic longline, shark bottom longline (Gulf & S Atl.), SE shark and coastal gillnet (Gulf & S Atl.) and Gulf reef fish (vertical line, buoy gear and bottom longline, BLL, with small amounts of BLL coverage in the S Atl in recent years)
- Electronic effort logging program also exists for the Gulf of Mexico shrimp trawl fishery
 - Only locations and duration of effort recorded



SE Bycatch Monitoring

Recent coverage rates

coverage rate
recent years

observer programs

Gulf shrimp trawl	~2%
South Atlantic shrimp trawl	~1%
Gulf reef fish - commercial	~6%
Shark bottom longline	3% - 8%
Shark & coastal gillnet	~ 11%
Pelagic longline	~ 12%
South Atlantic bandit (GSAFF)	probably < 1%
Headboat - primarily S. Atlantic	2% (FL-SC)-9%(NC)

dockside sampling program

MRIP	probably < 1%
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log book programs

Commercial - South Atlantic	~41%
Commercial - Gulf of Mexico	~33%
Headboat - South Atlantic	100%

Statistically designed surveys can provide accurate estimates with sufficient sampling levels



SE Bycatch Monitoring Improvements Underway

- SEFSC is reviewing of its commercial finfish fishery observer programs and the associated bycatch estimation methods. Final report expected late this year. Objectives:
 - Recommended estimation approaches
 - Guidance on estimating bycatch of rarely encountered species
- As part of a pilot project to test headboat logbook validation methods, both at sea and dockside monitoring methods will be investigated
- SEFSC is developing an electronic reporting system which will be tested by shark fishery observers



Questions?