

Summary of Southeast Region Current Bycatch Priorities and Implementation Plan Action Items

Action	Current Status	2005	2006	Outcome
Enhance observer programs in the Gulf of Mexico shrimp trawl fishery.	Observer program at pilot level, subject to annual finding.	Subject to funding	Subject to funding	Improved accuracy and precision in estimates of fish bycatch and take of protected species.
Provide better bycatch estimates for red snapper and other species with respect to season, depth and location.	Baseline data exist.	Subject to funding	Subject to funding	Improved accuracy and precision in estimates of red snapper bycatch with respect to season, depth, and location.
Enhance observer programs in the Gulf of Mexico bottom longline reef fish fishery.	Observer program at baseline level, subject to annual finding.	Subject to funding	Subject to funding	Improved accuracy and precision in estimates of fish bycatch and take of protected species.
Enhance observer programs in the South Atlantic shrimp trawl fishery.	Observer program at baseline level, subject to annual finding.	Subject to funding	Subject to funding	Improved accuracy and precision in estimates of fish bycatch and take of protected species.
Continue partnership with fishermen and industry groups to research and develop effective bycatch reduction techniques.	A Bycatch Workshop for the Southeast Region is being developed to discuss and prioritize bycatch issues pertaining to science/research, gear development/engineering, and data collection/monitoring (observer programs, logbooks, etc).	Subject to funding	Subject to funding	The goal of the workshop will be to (1) better understand bycatch issues in the Southeast Region and (2) identify potential solutions that can reduce bycatch (discard mortality) and enhance ability to measure bycatch in the Southeast. Issues identified at the workshop will be incorporated into an updated version of the Southeast Region Bycatch Implementation Plan.
Continue to update and maintain regional lists of organizations that have a need or interest in bycatch information.	Regional lists exist but need to be enhanced	Subject to funding	Subject to funding	Maintain active list on organizations that have need or interest in bycatch information.
Develop a glossary of terms, pertinent laws and regulations, visual aids, NMFS contacts, and World Wide Web sites to publicize recent efforts to reduce bycatch.	A MARFIN proposal was submitted on the development of an electronic database for regulations.	Subject to proposal selection and funding	Subject to proposal selection and funding	Information on bycatch issues would be available to the public.
Reduce capacity in the shrimp fishery.	Initial steps have been taken in the Gulf of Mexico with permit requirements and a December 6, 2003 control date.	Ongoing	Ongoing	Reduce bycatch and increase economic yield.
Continue the use of time/area closures for fisheries that have high bycatch of fishes, marine mammals, and sea turtles.	Current time/area closures appear to have reduced bycatch of undersized swordfish, bluefin tuna, yellowfin tuna, large coastal sharks, wahoo, etc.	Ongoing	Ongoing	Maintain bycatch reduction provided by time/area closure.