

FINAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF 2010 WORKSHOP

MITIGATING SEA TURTLE BYCATCH IN THE MID-ATLANTIC AND SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND TRAWL FISHERIES

The National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Fisheries Science Center, Protected Species Branch is sponsoring a 2 day workshop to review progress on gear research conducted since the January 2007 workshop, and to receive scientist and fishing industry input on directions for future research to mitigate sea turtle bycatch in Mid-Atlantic and Southern New England trawl fisheries. This is an open meeting to anyone interested in the issue.

The workshop is being conducted by Dr. Joe DeAlteris, a Professor at the University of Rhode Island, and President of DeAlteris Associates Inc (DAI). DAI has received support from NMFS, NEFSC to host the workshop, and can provide travel reimbursement and a stipend to a limited number of invited fishing industry participants.

Date and Location:

The workshop will be held at the Clarion Fontainebleau Hotel in Ocean City, Maryland on 26-27 October 2010. This is the same venue as the 2007 workshop. A block of rooms has been reserved at a conference rate of \$89. Please ask for the "NMFS sea turtle trawl interaction mitigation workshop" rate. The workshop will commence at 1:00 PM on Tuesday 26 October, and will end at 1:00 PM on Wednesday 27 October.

General Agenda:

NMFS will provide updates on management efforts, and sea turtle interactions in trawl fisheries in the northeast region. Scientists will provide summaries of research conducted since 2007 on evaluations of sea turtle bycatch reduction technologies. Finally, all participants, especially fishing industry representatives will be asked to contribute to discussions of future directions and needs for gear research, and the setting priorities for this research.

For more information, please contact:

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Specific Agenda:

26 October 2010 1:00 to 6:00 PM

- 1:00 – 1:30 Introduction and welcoming remarks, Joe DeAlteris, DAI, and Henry Milliken, NMFS; introductions of participants, Review of results of 2007 meeting
- 1:30 – 1:50 Update of the status of management efforts regarding sea turtles and trawl fisheries affecting the northeast region. NMFS
- 1:50 – 2:10 Update of sea turtle – trawl interaction rates, and estimated mortality attributed to trawl fisheries. NMFS
- 2:10 – 2:30 Summary of results of 2007 TED research in summer flounder trawl fishery, comparing a certified NMFS TED to a control trawl. DeAlteris, URI
- 2:30 – 3:00 Summary of results of 2006 TED research in scallop trawl fishery comparing a whelk TED to a control trawl, and 2009 TED research in scallop trawl fishery comparing a larger flounder TED to a control trawl. DeAlteris, URI
- 3:00 – 3:20 Break: cookies and sodas; new TED designs on display
- 3:20 – 3:40 Summary of results of TED research in 2009 comparing larger NMFS certified TED to a control trawl in the summer flounder trawl fishery. Eayrs, GMRI
- 3:40 – 4:00 Development and summary of results of 2009 evaluation of the Northeast Modified TED in the summer flounder trawl fishery, comparing this TED to the smaller NMFS certified TED tested in 2007. DeAlteris, URI
- 4:00 – 4:20 Summary of results of TED research comparing the Northeast modified TED to the larger NMFS certified TED in 2009. Sara Maribilo, UNC Sea Grant
- 4:20 – 4:40 TED development and summary of research and usability testing in the Mid-Atlantic Fly Net fishery. John Mitchell, SEFSC
- 4:40 – 5:00 Summary of results of 2009 TED research in southern New England whiting and squid trawl fisheries. Parkins, URI

5:00 – 5:20 Development and summary of 2010 research results on a topless trawl in the summer flounder trawl fishery, comparing a topless trawl to a traditional trawl. Parkins, URI

5:20 – 6:00 Questions and discussion of results of specific studies previously presented

6:00 Adjourn for evening

27 October 2010 8:00 AM – 13:00 PM

8:00 – 0830 Continental breakfast, new TED designs on display

8:30 – 9:00 Summary of research presentations from the previous day: What have we learned in the last three years? DeAlteris, URI

9:00 – 10:00 Learning from experience.
What has worked and why; and what has not worked and why?
Group discussion moderated by DeAlteris, URI

10:00 – 12:00 Given the current regulatory timeline, what are the next steps to develop a technological solution to mitigate sea turtle bycatch in trawl fisheries? What fisheries have to be addressed that have not? What are the alternatives, if any? Are there priorities, short-term versus long-term goals?
Group discussion moderated by DeAlteris, URI

12:00 – 13:00 Meeting summary and thank-you to participants, Milliken, NMFS

13:00 Adjourn