

<b>Southeast Region Implementation Plan Action Items (FY08 and FY09) and Accomplishments (FY06 and FY07)</b>						
<b>Action</b>	<b>Status/Specific Accomplishments as of 9/30/07</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>How Progress Will be Measured and/or Monitored</b>	<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Milestone Completion Date</b>
Enhance observer programs in the Gulf of Mexico shrimp trawl fishery.	The Final Rule for Shrimp Amendment 13, which establishes standardized reporting methodology, was published on 9/26/07 and was implemented 10/26/07.	Monitor bycatch with available funds.	Monitor bycatch with available funds.	Documentation of number of observer days completed with available funds.	Complete as many observer sea days as possible with available funds.	Sept-08 and Sep-09
Provide better bycatch estimates for red snapper and other species for the shrimp fishery with respect to season, depth, and location.	A Proposed Rule for a shrimp regulatory amendment to modify the shrimp bycatch protocol criteria allowing NMFS to designate more efficient bycatch reduction devices was published on 10/12/07.	Implement regulatory amendment.	Monitor bycatch with available funds.	Agency approval of regulatory amendment. Documentation of any work that was done to provide better bycatch estimates.	Agency approves and takes final Action on Regulatory Amendment.	Implement Jan-08
Enhance observer programs in the Gulf of Mexico bottom longline reef fish fishery.	Observer program at baseline level, subject to annual finding.	Monitor bycatch with available funds.	Monitor bycatch with available funds.	Documentation of number of observer days completed with available funds.	Complete as many observer sea days as possible with available funds.	Sept-08 and Sep-09
Enhance observer programs in the South Atlantic shrimp trawl fishery.	Shrimp Amendment 6 (approved) specifies that 20% of annual observer funds will be used to monitor bycatch in the South Atlantic shrimp fishery.	Monitor bycatch with available funds.	Monitor bycatch with available funds.	Documentation of number of observer days completed with available funds.	Complete as many observer sea days as possible with available funds.	Sept-08 and Sep-09
Enhancement of education and outreach efforts. Continue partnership with fishermen and industry groups to research and develop effective bycatch reduction techniques.	A Bycatch Workshop for the Southeast Region was conducted to discuss and prioritize bycatch issues pertaining to science & research, gear development & engineering, and data collection & monitoring (observer programs, logbooks, etc). The Proceedings from the workshop were published in a Web based document in May 2007.	Implement recommendations.	Implement recommendations.	Progress will be monitored through request for proposals, funding of bycatch studies, and implementation of effective bycatch techniques, which are based on recommendations by the Workshop.	Include recommendations in request for proposals, fund studies based on workshop recommendations	Sept-08 and Sep-09

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Continue the use of time/area closures for fisheries that have high bycatch of fishes, marine mammals, and sea turtles.	Existing time/area closures were maintained.	Ongoing.	Ongoing.	Maintain bycatch reduction provided by time/area closure.	Documentation of time/area closures.	Sept-08 and Sep-09
Provide better bycatch estimates for red snapper, vermilion snapper, and other reef fishes in the commercial and for-hire reef fish fishery with respect to season, depth, and location.	Reef Fish Amendment 22 (approved) implements a standardized reporting methodology through the development of an observer program for the commercial and for-hire reef fish fishery and use of MRFSS. Reef Fish Amendment 23 applies standardized bycatch reporting methodology to the entire reef fish complex including vermilion snapper.	Monitor bycatch with available funds and with MRFSS.	Monitor bycatch with available funds and with MRFSS.	Documentation of the number of observer sea days and number of intercepts by MRFSS.	Complete as many observer sea days as possible with available funds.	Sept-08 and Sep-09
Monitor and assess bycatch in the South Atlantic reef fish fishery: minimize the impacts of incidental take on sea turtle, and smalltooth sawfish.	South Atlantic Snapper Grouper Amendment 15B, which is being developed, would implement interim programs to monitor and assess bycatch in the South Atlantic reef fish fishery until the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) Release, Discard and Protected Species (Bycatch) Module can be fully funded. It also includes an action to minimize the impacts of incidental take on sea turtle, and smalltooth sawfish.	Implement Amendment 15B.	Monitor bycatch with available funds. Require use of gear to minimize bycatch of sawfish and turtles.	Approval of Amendment 15B to minimize the impacts of incidental take on sea turtle and smalltooth sawfish in the South Atlantic and establish bycatch reporting methodologies.	Approve amendment currently under development	Sep-08 approve amendment; Sep-09 monitor bycatch

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Reduce bycatch of red porgy and black sea bass in the South Atlantic.	The Final Rule for Reef Fish Amendment 13C was implemented October 23, 2006. The Amendment increased the allowable harvest of red porgy, required a 2" mesh back panel in black sea bass pots, and required black sea bass pots be removed from the water when a quota is met.	Monitor bycatch with available funds.	Monitor bycatch with available funds.	Estimate magnitude red porgy and black sea bass bycatch.	Complete as many observer sea days as possible with available funds.	Sept-08 and Sep-09
Establish Marine Protected Areas in South Atlantic to eliminate bycatch in closed deep water areas and protect a portion of deep water fish population from fishing pressure.	Amendment 14 is being developed to establish eight MPAs from northern South Carolina to southern Florida.	Approve Amendment 14.	Monitor MPAs with available funds.	Approval of Amendment 14 to establish MPAs in the South Atlantic.	Implement Amendment 14.	Sept-08 approve amendment; Oct 08 implement amendment
Reduce red snapper bycatch in the Gulf of Mexico shrimp and reef fish fisheries.	Shrimp Amendment 14 and Reef Fish Amendment 27 is being developed to reduce red snapper bycatch in the Gulf of Mexico. The Proposed Rule was published on 10/23/07.	Implement Shrimp Amendment 14 and Reef Fish Amendment 27	Monitor bycatch with available funds and with MRFSS.	Approval of amendments that reduce red snapper in the Gulf of Mexico shrimp and bycatch reporting methodologies	Approve amendments currently under development	Feb-08 implement amendments; Sept-09 monitor bycatch.
Minimize the impacts of incidental take on sea turtles and smalltooth sawfish in the Gulf of Mexico.	The Final Rule for Reef Fish Amendment 18a published August 9, 2006. The Amendment provides methods to minimize the impacts of incidental take on sea turtles and smalltooth sawfish in the snapper grouper fishery.	Conduct outreach with fishermen on measures to reduce incidental take impacts on sea turtles and smalltooth sawfish.	Continue to conduct outreach with fishermen on measures to reduce incidental take impacts on sea turtles and smalltooth sawfish.	Monitor the adoption of release gear protocols and the number of vessels carrying and using required gear.	Document compliance with carrying the required gear.	Sept-08 and Sep-09
Reduce and monitor bycatch in Caribbean fisheries.	The Caribbean Comprehensive SFA/EFH Amendment was implemented during 2006.	Monitor bycatch with available funds.	Monitor bycatch with available funds.	Documentation of the number of observer sea days.	Complete as many observer sea days as possible with available funds.	Sept-08 and Sep-09

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Enhance funding for bycatch studies.	FY07 priorities for the MARFIN and Cooperative Research Program were revised to better reflect research needs for stock assessments and bycatch as identified in the Region's Bycatch Implementation Plan.	Fund new proposals related to bycatch.	Fund new proposals related to bycatch.	Progress will be monitored through the funding and successful completion of bycatch related proposals.	MARFIN and CRP Annual Reports.	8-Sep
Provide better bycatch estimates for protected species for the shark bottom longline fishery with respect to season, and location.	Observer program developed and subject to funding.	Monitor bycatch with available funds and with MRFSS.	Monitor bycatch with available funds and with MRFSS.	Information on protected resource bycatch would be made available to assess the overall effects mortality from this fishery has on protected resource stocks.	Complete as many observer sea days as possible with available funds; prepare and disseminate annual bycatch estimates of protected species.	8-Sep
Assess impacts of federally-managed fisheries and gear types on ESA-listed species.	Completed ESA biological opinion on the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico CMP fishery. Completed four informal consultations on the effects to ESA-listed <i>Acropora</i> species from the continued authorization of the Gulf of Mexico Shrimp and Reef Fish and South Atlantic Snapper-Grouper and Shrimp fisheries.	Continue to assess impacts of federally-managed fisheries actions and gear types on ESA-listed species.	Continue to assess impacts of federally-managed fisheries actions and gear types on ESA-listed species.	Complete reinitiating analyses and biological opinions.	Complete necessary ESA biological opinions and re-initiations analyses as necessary.	8-Sep
Develop and implement rule to reduce sea turtle bycatch in trawl fisheries.	Working with NER & HQ to develop Trawl Gear Rule	The Sea Turtle Strategy Team, Regions, and HQ will draft/complete Trawl Gear Rule	Explore starting a similar rulemaking process for other trawl fisheries not included in the current Trawl Gear Rule	Completion of the Trawl Gear Rule	Implementation of Trawl Gear Rule	8-Sep

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Implement regulations to reduce leatherback sea turtle bycatch	Working with NER and HQ to develop Trawl Gear Rule that will require the use of a flounder TED capable of releasing leatherback sea turtles and a flynet TED.	Schedule workshops with affected fishers on the use of these TEDs. Incorporate new gear designs into regulations.	Continue workshops and monitor the effectiveness of new requirements.	Completion of Trawl Gear Rule. Monitor compliance with these new TED requirements.	Implementation of Trawl Gear Rule	8-Sep
Research new gear and fishing methods to reduce bycatch of sea turtle species, led by SEFSC Pascagoula Lab with observer evaluation from SEFSC Galveston and guidance from SERO.	Developed and tested several TED designs.	Continue to research methods to reduce sea turtle bycatch in fisheries by other gear types.	Continue to research methods to reduce sea turtle bycatch in fisheries by other gear types.	Continued evaluation of new gears and fishing methods to reduce bycatch of sea turtles.	Developed new TED design that was incorporated into Trawl Gear Rule.	Sep-08 and Sep-09
Amend gillnet gear fishing regulations to protect N. Atl. Right Whales in S. Atlantic waters from South Carolina to central Florida.	Implemented Emergency Rule (71 FR 66469, Nov. 15, 2006) temporarily prohibiting gillnet fishing in the Southeast U.S. Restricted Area north of 29 N lat. Published a Proposed Rule (71 FR 66482, Nov. 15, 2006) and Final Rule (72 FR 34632, June 25, 2007) amending gillnet fishing regulations in the Southeast to protect N. Atl. right whales in their calving habitat.	Monitor N. Atl. Right Whale bycatch levels and monitor compliance with new regulations	Continue to monitor right whale bycatch in fisheries using other gear types.	Monitor right whale bycatch from gillnet or other commercial fisheries gear in SE Restricted Area	Documentation of bycatch levels	Sep-08 and Sep-09

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Assess impacts of fisheries and gear types on sea turtles.	NOA has gone out and comments have been received by various state agencies. Corrections have been made to the characterizations as appropriate.	Research methods to reduce sea turtle bycatch in these fisheries. Continue to work on characterization of federal fisheries as needed.	Continue to research methods to reduce sea turtle bycatch in these fisheries. Continue to work on characterization of federal fisheries as needed. Use information to help determine which gear types/fisheries require further information/observer coverage to understand potential for sea turtle interactions. Use information to determine which gear types/fisheries are to be addressed after the trawl gear issue is addressed.	Update characterizations and rules, as needed, to reduce sea turtle bycatch in fisheries that affect sea turtles. Use information to help determine future course of action on various gear types.	Update fisheries characterization, as needed. Use information to prioritize/plan management actions by gear type.	Ongoing.
Reconvene the Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Team to monitor effectiveness of the Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Plan and amend the plan as necessary.	Reconvened the Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Team for a full team meeting in June 2007 to review the Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Plan, monitor its effectiveness, and provide recommendations for future modifications and gear research.	Reconvene the Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Team to review progress on the plan; continue monitoring plan's effectiveness.	Modify the Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Plan, if necessary, based on take reduction team comments; and continue to monitor the plan's effectiveness.	Monitor fishery takes to assess whether mortality and serious injury of bottlenose dolphins has been reduced to below stock's Potential Biological Removal level within 6 months of implementation of the plan (short term goal) and to insignificant levels approaching a zero rate within 5 years of implementation of the plan (long term goal).	Implement regulatory and non-regulatory components of the plan. Reconvene the team, as required under the MMPA, to assess the effectiveness and determine need for modification.	8-Sep

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Provide outreach to commercial fishermen affected by the Bottlenose Dolphin and Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plans by conducting: dockside/fish house visits, participating in various meetings, providing outreach to federal and state law enforcement agents, and participating in gear research efforts.	Fishery Liaison provided outreach to commercial fishermen affected by the Bottlenose Dolphin and Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plans by: (1) conducting 70 dockside/fish house visits; (2) participating in 15 meetings with fishermen, NCDMF staff, commission meetings, and take reduction plan meetings; (3) providing outreach on numerous occasions to the USCG and NCDMF marine patrol, (4) participating in NCDMF gear research projects; (5) providing information to fishermen about gear research opportunities.	Continue to provide information to fishermen and public on components of the Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Plan and amendments to the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction and gillnet closures via dockside/site visits, presentations and information provided at Commission and take reduction plan meetings, postings to web sites, participation in gear research, and providing gear research opportunities to fishermen.	Continue to provide information to fishermen and public on components of the Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Plan and amendments to the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction and gillnet closures via dockside/site visits, presentations and information provided at Commission and take reduction plan meetings, postings to web sites, participation in gear research, and providing gear research opportunities to fishermen.	Monitor compliance of fishermen with regulatory and non-regulatory components of the Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Plan (spatial and temporal gear operating requirements, requirements to carry observers) and Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan and gillnet closures; Monitor fishery takes to assess whether short and long term bycatch reduction goals for the Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Plan have been met.	Continue to conduct outreach activities that provide fishermen and the public, especially law enforcement agents, pertinent information to help ensure compliance on regulatory and non-regulatory components of the Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Plan, amendments to the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan, and gillnet closures.	8-Sep
Implement regulations to reduce pilot whale and Risso's dolphin bycatch.	Established an Atlantic Pelagic Longline Take Reduction Team to develop a draft plan to reduce mortality and serious injury of marine mammals (spec. pilot whales and Risso's dolphins) incidental to the Atlantic pelagic longline fishery. Team submitted consensus recommendations and Draft PLTRP to NMFS in June 06	Publish proposed rule to implement PLTRP and PLTRT will reconvene to review status of plan during the public comment period.	Implement regulatory components of the plan (as appropriate). Monitor plan's effectiveness and modify as necessary based on team comments.	Monitor fishery takes to assess whether mortality and serious injury of marine mammals has been reduced to insignificant levels approaching a zero rate within 5 years of implementation of the plan.	Submit draft Take Reduction Plan. Publish Final Take Reduction Plan.	7-May

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Enhance observer coverage in Mid-Atlantic Coastal Gillnet Fishery.	Coordinators established a database of NC commercial fishermen in which 183 entries were added; implemented the alternative platform observer program and achieved 53 observed trips, resulting in increased observer coverage by 16.4% in NC.	Continue to enhance and augment the NC commercial fishermen database; continue observation of seasonal fisheries via the alternative platforms	Continue to enhance and augment the NC commercial fishermen database; continue observation of seasonal fisheries via the alternative platforms, funding dependent	Completion of bi-weekly reports documenting entries into the NC commercial fishermen database and number of alternative platform observations, as well as annual reports and NOAA Tech Memos.	Implement observer non-regulatory recommendation in the BDTRP	8-Sep
Award and conduct research to test various gillnet, pound net, seine, and longline gear modifications to reduce bottlenose dolphin, pilot whale, and Risso's dolphin serious injuries and mortalities.	Cooperated with Sea Grant to review and award grants to conduct research in the pelagic longline fishery as recommended by the Pelagic Longline Take Reduction Team. Completed previous grant awarded in 2005 to conduct gillnet bridle research as recommended by the Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Team.	Continue to cooperate with Sea Grant to award grant(s) and continue research on modified gear/fishery operations to reduce bycatch of bottlenose dolphins, pilot whales, and Risso's dolphins.	Continue research on fishery operations to reduce bycatch and implement new gear requirements, as appropriate, in coordination with Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Team and Pelagic Longline Reduction Team.	Successful completion of awarded gear research studies; and present information to Bottlenose Dolphin and Pelagic Longline Take Reduction Teams, respectively, to determine feasibility of incorporating gear modifications into the plan.	Issue new grant(s) in 2008 to study impacts of modified gear/fishery operations on bottlenose dolphin serious injuries and mortalities.	8-Sep
Provide information to fishermen and public on regulatory and non-regulatory components of the Pelagic Longline Take Reduction Plan.	Developed draft Pelagic Longline Take Reduction Plan. Developed presentations describing draft proposed measures for HMS Protected Species Safe Handling, Release, and Identification Workshops required for all HMS shark and swordfish permit holders. Developed and distributed placard with marine mammal identification and safe handling/release guidelines for the pelagic longline fishery.	Continue to provide information to fishermen and public on regulatory and non-regulatory components of the Pelagic Longline Take Reduction Plan.	Continue to provide information to fishermen and public on regulatory and non-regulatory components of the Pelagic Longline Take Reduction Plan.	Monitor fishery takes to assess whether the bycatch reduction goals of the plan have been met.		8-Sep



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Assess impacts of fisheries and gear types on MM species.	Assessed levels of marine mammal mortalities and serious injuries in all state and Federal commercial fisheries in the SE and provided recommendations for revising annual List of Fisheries (2007 and 2008) to categorize fisheries according to level of marine mammal bycatch. Responded to comments on proposed changes on both the 2007 and 2008 proposed Lists of Fisheries.	Provide F/PR with recommended revisions to List of Fisheries; respond to comments on proposed changes.	Provide F/PR with recommended revisions to List of Fisheries; respond to comments on proposed changes.	Revised List of Fisheries will be published annually.	Develop and forward to F/PR recommended revisions to 2009 LOF.	8-May
Issue MMAP certificates to state- and federally-permitted fishermen.	Issued 2007 Marine Mammal Authorization Program certificates by mail to all state- and Federally-permitted fishermen in the SE.	Issue 2008 MMAP certificates to state- and federally-permitted fishermen. Transition to web-based certification, and alert fishermen to the new requirements.	Update website with 2009 MMAP certificates and outreach information. Monitor the usage of and response to web-based certification process.	Monitor compliance with terms and conditions of MMAP authorization (i.e., comply with fishery regulations imposed under specific Take Reduction Plans and requirements to carry observers and report all mortalities and injuries of marine mammals).	Issue MMAP certificates by mail or website.	8-Dec
Inform fishermen and the public about bycatch of PR species and measures being implemented to reduce bycatch.	Provided information regarding bycatch of PR species via MMAP certificate mailings, directed mailings, dockside/site visits, website posting, and presentations and information provided at Council and Commission meetings, and other fora.	Provide information about current bycatch levels, regulations to reduce bycatch, and reporting requirements.	Provide information about current bycatch levels, regulations to reduce bycatch, and reporting requirements.	Monitor compliance of commercial fishermen with regulations regarding bycatch of protected species (Take Reduction Plans, observer programs, reporting requirements).	Provide written and verbal information to fishermen regarding bycatch of PR species and measures being implemented to reduce bycatch.	8-Sep

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Research new gear and fishing methods to reduce bycatch of finfish species, led by SEFSC Pascagoula Lab with observer evaluation from SEFSC Galveston.	Developed and tested several BRD designs.	Continue to research methods to reduce finfish bycatch in shrimp fishery.	Continue to research methods to reduce finfish bycatch in shrimp fishery.	Continued evaluation of new BRD designs to reduce finfish bycatch.	Developed new BRD design that will be incorporated into Shrimp Amendment 15.	Sep-08 and Sep-09