



Northeast Region Bulletin

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<http://www.nero.noaa.gov/>
Date Issued: 1/7/2013

SCALLOP VESSELS

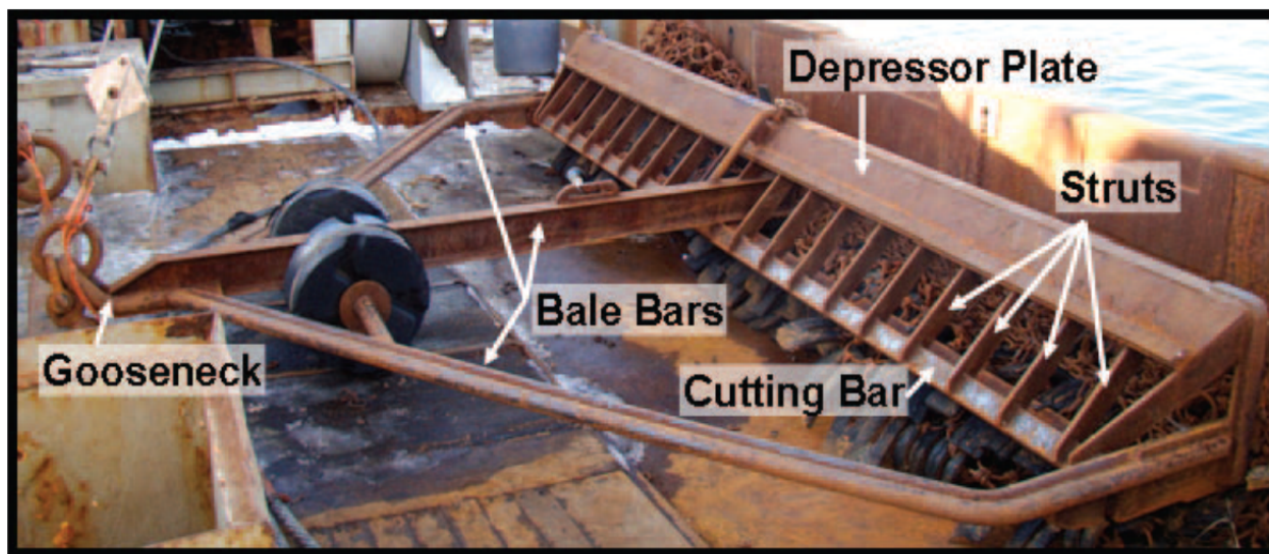
Clarification of the Turtle Deflector Dredge (TDD) Design Requirements

TDD Required by May 1, 2013

It recently came to our attention that some TDDs may be out of compliance with the TDD requirements. Please review the following requirements and clarifications to ensure that your TDD meets the correct specifications by May 1, 2013.

For questions or more information, please call the Sustainable Fisheries Division at (978) 281-9244 or the Office of Law Enforcement at (978) 675-2198.

Below is a photo of what your dredge should look like, and a list of the TDD specifications:

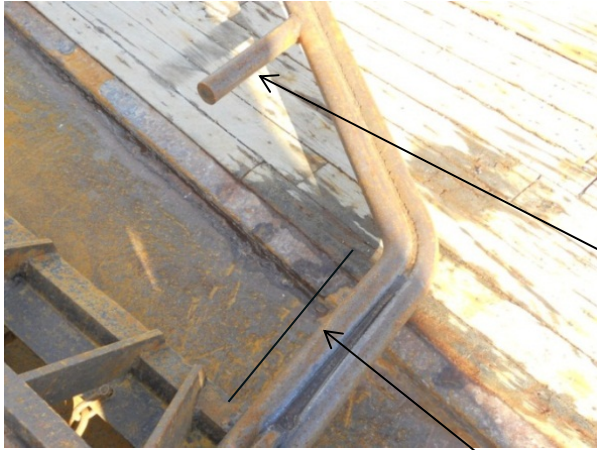


Source: Coonamesset Farm Foundation

What are the Requirements of the TDD Design?

- (1) The cutting bar must be located in front of the depressor plate.
- (2) The acute angle between the plane of the bale and the strut must be less than or equal to 45 °.

For small entity compliance guides, this bulletin complies with section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement and Fairness Act of 1996. This notice is authorized by the Regional Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Region.



Source: Coonamasset Farm Foundation

(3) All bale bars must be removed, except the outer bale (single or double) bars and the center support beam, leaving an otherwise unobstructed space between the cutting bar and forward bale wheels, if present. The center support beam must be less than 6" wide. For the purpose of flaring and safe handling of the dredge, a minor appendage, not to exceed 12" in length, may be attached to the outer bale bar ("flaring bar"). One flaring bar is allowed on each side of the dredge, and only one side of the flaring bar should be attached to the dredge frame. The appendage should at no point be closer than 12" to the cutting bar so that it does not interfere with the space created by the "bump out".

(4) Struts must be spaced no more than 12" apart from each other, along the entire length of the frame.

(5) For all dredges with widths of 10' 6" or greater, the TDD must include a straight extension ("bump out") connecting the outer bale bars to the dredge frame. This "bump out" must exceed 12" in length, as measured along the inside of the bale bar from the front of the cutting bar to the first bend in the bale bar. The "bump out" is labeled in the photo above.

We intend to clarify the current TDD regulations in our next rulemaking to include all the details of the design requirements that are listed above.

Compliance Issues

Photo of Non-Compliant TDD



Source: U.S. Coast Guard

Issue 1: Some TDDs have been manufactured with "flaring bars" that are greater than 12" in length. In addition, the flaring bar appendage should only be attached on one of its ends and should not be attached to the bump out. In the photo to the left, appendages have been attached on both inner sides of the dredge frames at the "bump outs". These appendages are out of compliance because they are 24" in length (they should not be longer than 12") and because both sides of the appendage are attached to the dredge frame (see flaring bar photo above), and are closer than 12" to the cutting bar.



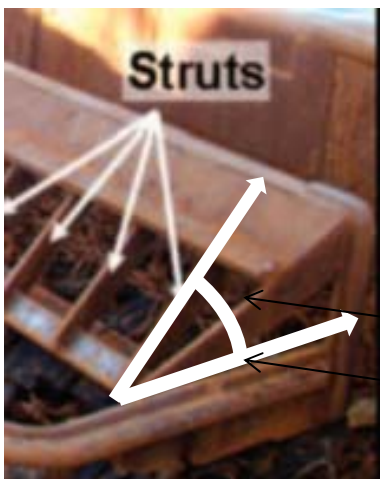
Source: U.S. Coast Guard

Issue 2: The requirement for the struts to be spaced 12” apart means that the entire strut must be 12” apart from the adjacent strut. We have been made aware that while some TDDs have the struts attached to the cutting bar spaced appropriately, but where these struts meet the depressor plate, they are 13” apart. This is not compliant with the TDD regulations. The struts need to be parallel to each other and 12” apart.

Issue 3: It appears that the “bump out” of some TDDs is less than 12” in length. To ensure your TDD is consistent with the regulations, measure along the inside of the bump out from the leading edge of the cutting bar to the first bend in the bale bar. In the picture to the right, the “bump out” measures only 11” in length, which is not compliant.



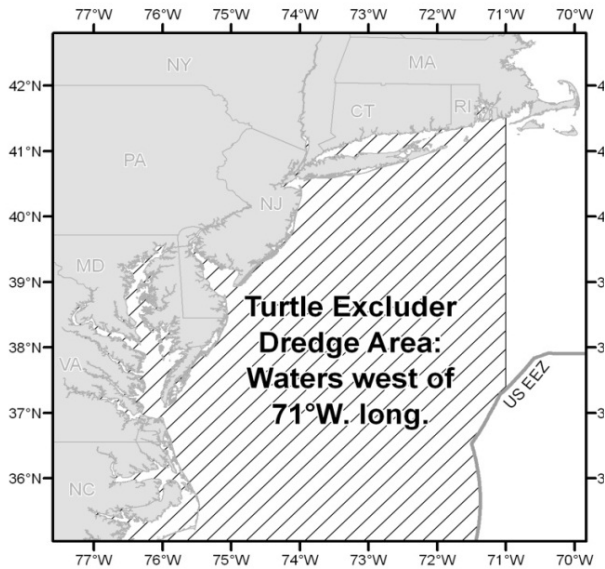
Source: U.S. Coast Guard



Issue 4: Some TDDs have been made with acute angles between the plane of the bale and the strut that are greater than 45°. The angle must be less than or equal to 45° to be compliant. The photo to the left shows where the measurement should be taken. The TDD in this photo is compliant.

$\leq 45^\circ$

Plane of bale



Effective Date, Season, and Area Required:

- TDDs must be used beginning May 1, 2013.
- The TDD season is from May 1 through October 31 each year, starting in 2013.
- Vessels fishing in Turtle Excluder Dredge Area (TDD Area) west of 71° W. Long. must use TDDs during the entire TDD season.

Which Vessels Have to Use the TDD?

All scallop vessels fishing in the TDD Area during the TDD season described above, with the exception of Limited Access General Category vessels that use a dredge less than 10' 6" in width must use the TDD. Specific examples are listed below.

Vessels with an LAGC permit and fishing with:

- One dredge with a width greater than or equal to 10'6"
- One dredge with a width less than 10'6"
- Two dredges, each with a width less than 10'6"

Is a TDD required?

YES

NO

NO

Vessels with a Limited Access permit and fishing with:

- One dredge with a width greater than or equal to 10'6"
- One dredge with a width less than 10'6"
- Two dredges, each with a width less than 10'6"

Is a TDD required?

YES

YES – but no bump out is required

YES – but no bump out required