



## NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE: Southeast Region



The Southeast Region includes eight coastal states (North Carolina-Texas) that border the northwestern Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico. The Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the territory of the U.S. Virgin Islands are also included within the Southeast Region's management jurisdiction. The Southeast U.S. Continental Shelf Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) is wholly contained within the region, as are portions of the Caribbean Sea LME and the Gulf of Mexico LME.

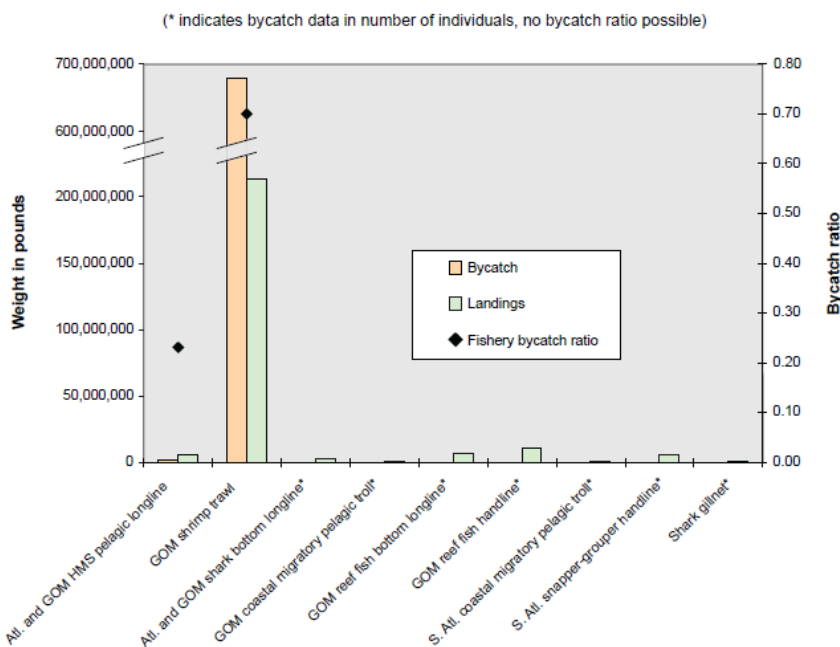
## The National Bycatch Report: Southeast Region

Reducing fisheries bycatch is a top priority for NOAA Fisheries and is required under guiding legislation and international laws. Monitoring and reducing fisheries bycatch promotes healthy marine ecosystems and the best use of the nation's living marine resources. NOAA Fisheries new report, the National Bycatch Report, provides bycatch estimates by fishery and species for each of the six NOAA Fisheries Regions. The South Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Fishery Management Councils, in conjunction with NOAA Fisheries, are responsible for managing fisheries in the Southeast Region.

### Southeast Region Fast Facts

- 48 commercial fisheries (federal, state, and international) are included in this report for the Southeast Region.
- 17 fishery management plans regulate the harvest of federally managed species in the Southeast Region.
- Landings from Southeast Region commercial fisheries included in the report were valued at approximately \$756 million in 2005.
- Observer programs currently monitor 12 of the 48 fisheries.
- Fish bycatch estimates were available for 9 fisheries and 214 species in 2005. (bycatch could not be estimated for the other 3 fisheries due to limited data).
- Protected species (marine mammals, seabirds, and sea turtles) bycatch estimates were available for 10 fisheries and 12 species/groups in 2005.

### Southeast Region 2005 Fish Bycatch and Landings by Fishery



Shrimp trawl bycatch is directly related to fishing effort, which has declined more than 50% since 2005. While this decline is primarily attributed to economic conditions in the fishery, regulations implemented at the request of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council now require NOAA Fisheries to control shrimp effort, as needed, through time-area closures to ensure it remains below a threshold level.

# The National Bycatch Report



View the complete  
National Bycatch Report  
at:

[www.nmfs.noaa.gov/bycatch.htm](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/bycatch.htm)

## National Bycatch Report: Southeast Region

### Bycatch Reduction Success Stories

- Bycatch reduction devices are required in all Southeastern shrimp fisheries to reduce finfish bycatch.
- Turtle excluder devices (TEDs) have been required in all shrimp trawls (with limited exceptions) since the mid-1990s. TEDs allow for release of an estimated 97% of the turtles caught in shrimp trawls.
- Gear regulations in the Atlantic pelagic longline fishery for Highly Migratory Species have reduced interactions with endangered and threatened sea turtles, while closures are utilized to reduce interactions with juvenile target species and billfish.
- Required mesh size in the back panel of black sea bass pots has been increased to 2 inches to reduce bycatch of undersized black sea bass.
- Harvest limits and time and area closures have resulted in bycatch reductions in some fisheries.
- Federally-permitted commercial and for-hire snapper-grouper and reef fish vessels operators are required to maintain onboard sea turtle release gear and "Careful Handling and Release Protocols for Sea Turtle Release with Minimal Injury" and to post a "Sea Turtle Handling and Release Guidelines" placard to reduce sea turtle mortality.



Sea turtle utilizing a TED.  
*Credit: SEFSC*

Inside view of a BRD composite  
panel.

*Credit: SEFSC*

