

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 fishing industry input of 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 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 NEFSC will provide updates on pending regulations, and sea turtle interactions in trawl fisheries. Scientists will provide summaries of research conducted since 2007 on evaluations of sea turtle bycatch reduction technologies. Finally, all participants will be asked to participate in discussions of potential future research topics and setting priorities for research.

For more information, please contact:

Joe DeAlteris
URI telephone: 401-874-5333
DAI cell phone: 401-741-1129
E-mail: jdealteris@uri.edu

Tentative 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 summary of 2007 meeting
- 1:30 – 2:00 Update of the status of pending regulations regarding sea turtles and trawl fisheries in the northeast region. _____, NMFS
- 2:00 – 2:30 Update of sea turtle – trawl interaction rates, and estimated mortality attributed to trawl fisheries. _____, NMFS
- 2:30 – 2:50 Summary of results of 2007 TED research in summer flounder trawl fishery, comparing a certified NMFS TED to a control trawl. DeAlteris, URI
- 2:50 – 3:00 Break: cookies and sodas
- 3:00 – 3:20 Summary of results of TED research in 2008 scallop trawl fishery comparing a larger whelk TED to a control trawl. DeAlteris, URI
- 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 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 Maribillo, UNC Sea Grant
- 4:20 – 4:40 Development and summary of results of TED research in the Fly Net fishery. Jeff Gearheart, SEFSC
- 4:40 – 5:00 Summary of results of TED research in southern New England whiting and squid trawl fisheries. Parkins, URI
- 4:40 – 5:00 Development and summary of results for a topless trawl in the summer flounder trawl fishery, comparing a topless trawl to a traditional trawl. Parkins, URI

5:00 – 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

8:30 – 9:00 Summary of research presentations from the previous day, 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 What are the next steps to develop a technological solution to mitigate sea turtle bycatch in trawl fisheries. What are the alternatives? Group discussion moderated by DeAlteris, URI

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

13:00 Adjourn