

<b>Southeast Region Implementation Plan Action Items (FY07 and FY08) and Accomplishments (FY05 and FY06)</b>						
<b>Action</b>	<b>Status/Specific Accomplishments as of 9/30/06</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</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, has been published.	Implement Shrimp 13.	Monitor bycatch with available funds.	Documentation of number of observer days completed with available funds.	Implement Amendment 13.	Amendment implemented Sep-07
Provide better bycatch estimates for red snapper and other species for the shrimp fishery with respect to season, depth, and location.	A shrimp regulatory amendment was approved by the Council to modify the shrimp bycatch protocol criteria allowing NMFS to designate more efficient bycatch reduction devices.	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 Sep-07
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.	Sep-07 and Sep-08
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.	Sep-07 and Sep-08
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 goal of the workshop was to better understand bycatch issues in the Southeast Region, identify potential solutions that can reduce bycatch (discard mortality), and enhance ability to measure bycatch in the Southeast.	Complete proceedings.	Implement recommendations.	Progress will be monitored through completion of the workshop and a Web based proceedings document.	Workshop Proceedings.	Sep-07

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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-07 and Sept-08
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.	Sep-07 and Sep-08
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. Reduce reef fish bycatch and minimize the impacts of incidental take on sea turtle, and smalltooth sawfish.	New.	Develop methodology in Amendment 15 to monitor bycatch of reef fishes and protected resources in the South Atlantic Snapper Grouper fishery. Identify actions to reduce bycatch.	Approve Amendment 15.	Approval of Amendment 15 to reduce reef fish bycatch and 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-07 develop amendment; Sep-08 approve amendment

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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 has been published. The Amendment will increase allowable harvest of red porgy, require a 2" mesh back panel in black sea bass pots, and require black sea bass pots be removed from the water when a quota is met.	Implement Amendment 13C	Monitor bycatch with available funds.	Estimate magnitude red porgy and black sea bass bycatch.	Implement Amendment 13.	Amendment implemented Oct-06
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.	Implement Amendment 14.	Approval of Amendment 14 to establish MPAs in the South Atlantic.	Implement Amendment 14.	Sep-07 approve amendment; Sep-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 are being developed to reduce red snapper bycatch in the Gulf of Mexico	Approve Shrimp Amendment 14 and Reef Fish Amendment 27	Implement Shrimp Amendment 14 and Reef Fish Amendment 27	Approval of amendments that reduce red snapper in the Gulf of Mexico shrimp and bycatch reporting methodologies	Approve amendments currently under development	Sep-07 approve amendments; Sep-08 implement amendments
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 has been published. The Amendment provides methods to minimize the impacts of incidental take on sea turtles and smalltooth sawfish in the snapper grouper fishery.	Implement Amendment 18a, 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.	Implement gear requirements as appropriate; monitor the adoption of release gear protocols and the number of vessels carrying and using required gear.	Implement Amendment 18a.	Sep-07 implement amendment
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.	Sep-07

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Enhance funding for bycatch studies.	FY06 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.	Sep-07
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.	Sep-07
Assess impacts of federally-managed fisheries and gear types on ESA-listed species.	Completed ESA biological opinions on the South Atlantic snapper-grouper fishery. Completed re-initiations analyses on several Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Fishery Management Plan Amendments.	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 reinitiation analyses and biological opinions.	Complete necessary ESA biological opinions and re-initiations analyses as necessary.	Sep-07
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	Sep-07
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 work shops with affected fishers on the use of these TEDs.	Continue workshops and monitor the effectiveness of new requirements.	Monitor compliance with these new TED requirements.	Publish Trawl Gear Rule.	Sep-07

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Research new gear and fishing methods to reduce bycatch of sea turtle species, led by SEFSC Pascagoula Lab with 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-07 and Sep-08
Amend gillnet gear fishing regulations to protect Atl. Right Whales in S. Atlantic waters from South Carolina to central Florida.	Implemented Temporary Rule to prohibit gillnet fishing in U.S. Southeast Restricted Area; Drafted Proposed Rule package to amend gillnet fishing regulations and sent package to HQ	Draft and Implement Emergency Rule in tandem with drafting the Proposed Rule to amend gillnet fishing gear regulations to protect Atl. right whales	Implement Final Rule to replace Emergency Rule; Monitor Atl. Right Whale bycatch levels and monitor compliance with new regulations	Completion and implementation of the Emergency Rule and Completion and Implement of Final Rule to amend gillnet gear fishing regulations	Implement Final Rule	Sep-07
Assess impacts of fisheries and gear types on sea turtles.	Characterization of State fisheries have been completed and NOA will be going out to solicit comment.	Publish NOA of State fisheries characterizations; edit characterizations where appropriate, based on public comment.	Research methods to reduce sea turtle bycatch in these fisheries. Continue to work on characterization of federal fisheries as needed.	Update characterizations and rules, as needed, to reduce sea turtle bycatch in fisheries that affect sea turtles.	Update fisheries characterization, as needed.	Sep-07 & Sep-08

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Implement regulations to reduce bottlenose dolphin serious injury and mortality.	Published a final rule to implement the Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Plan to reduce mortality and serious injury of bottlenose dolphins to below Potential Biological Removal levels and to amend the Atlantic Large Mesh Gillnet Rule.	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.	Sep-07
Conduct outreach activities to provide information to fishermen and public on regulatory and non-regulatory components of the Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Plan.	Conducted a series of 11 information workshops along coastal towns of the Atlantic coast for fishermen and public on regulatory and non-regulatory components of the plan.	Continue to provide information to fishermen and public on regulatory and non-regulatory components of the Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Plan, via directed mailings, dockside/site visits, presentations and information provided at Council and Commission meetings and other fora, and on website postings.	Continue to provide information to fishermen and public on regulatory and non-regulatory components of the Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Plan, via directed mailings, dockside/site visits, presentations and information provided at Council and Commission meetings and other fora, and on website postings.	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); Monitor fishery takes to assess whether short and long term bycatch reduction goals of the plan have been met.	Continue to conduct outreach activities that provide fishermen and the public on regulatory and non-regulatory components of the Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Plan.	Sep-07

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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.	Work with the team to submit their draft plan in timeframe mandated by MMPA. Publish proposed rule to implement PLTRP and PLTRT will reconvene to review status of plan.	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.	Sep-07
Provide information to fishermen and public on regulatory and non-regulatory components of the Pelagic Longline Take Reduction Plan.	Developed Pelagic Longline Take Reduction Plan.	Provide information to fishermen and public on regulatory and non-regulatory components of the Pelagic Longline Take Reduction Plan.	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.	Develop and disseminate materials outlining the components of the team's draft plan and next steps that will be taken by NMFS to implement the plan.	Sep-07
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 and provided recommendations for revising annual List of Fisheries to categorize fisheries according to level of bycatch.	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 2007 LOF.	May-07

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Assess impacts of fisheries and gear types on bottlenose dolphin.	Issued contract to characterize bycatch of fish and PR species in NC stop net fishery, as recommended by Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Team. Contract revised in FY' 06 to extend study for a second year.	Complete bycatch characterization study and results will be submitted to the BDTRT to determine whether changes to the BDTRP are warranted.	Revise BDTRP as appropriate.	Monitor takes of bottlenose dolphins in stop net fishery to assess whether mortality and serious injury of bottlenose dolphins in that fishery has been reduced to meet overall goals of the Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Plan.	Complete bycatch characterization study.	Sep-07
Enhance observer coverage in Mid-Atlantic Coastal Gillnet Fishery.	Hired two field coordinators to be based in Beaufort, NC. Coordinators established a database of NC commercial fishermen; implemented and alternative platform observer program.	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.	Implement observer non-regulatory recommendation in the BDTRP	Sep-07
Enhance observer coverage in Mid-Atlantic Coastal Gillnet Fishery.	Funded an 117 additional observer sea days to monitor bottlenose dolphin serious injury and mortality in the Mid-Atl Coastal Gillnet Fishery.	Conduct 117 observer sea days from 11-06 thru 4-07	Conduct additional sea days pending need and funding	Document observer sea days fulfilled	Implement observer non-regulatory recommendation in the BDTRP	Sep-07

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Conduct Research to test various gillnet and longline gear modifications.	Cooperated with Sea Grant to review and award grant to conduct research to test various gillnet gear modifications recommended by the Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Team for mid-Atlantic coastal gillnet fisheries and gear research recommendations made by the Pelagic Longline Take Reduction Team for longline gear.	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 operations to reduce bycatch; 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 2007 to study impacts of modified gear/fishery operations on bottlenose dolphin, pilot whales, and Risso's dolphins serious injuries and mortalities; Complete gear research initiated in 2005 and 2006.	Sep-07
Issue MMAP certificates to federally-permitted fishermen.	Issued Marine Mammal Authorization Program certificates to all Federally-permitted fishermen in the SE.	Issue MMAP certificates to federally-permitted fishermen, and expand issuance to include state-permitted fishermen in the 9 coastal states of the Southeast Region.	Issue MMAP certificates to federally-permitted fishermen, and expand issuance to include state-permitted fishermen in the 9 coastal states of the Southeast Region.	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.	Dec-06
Inform fishermen and the public about bycatch of PR species and measures being implemented to reduce bycatch.	Provided information regarding bycatch of PR species with MMAP certificate mailings, via directed mailings, dockside/site visits, presentations and information provided at Council and Commission meetings and other fora, and on website postings.	Provide information about current bycatch levels and ongoing measures to reduce bycatch in MMAP mailings to commercial fishermen.	Provide information to Gulf of Mexico shrimp fishermen regarding smalltooth sawfish.	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 Gulf of Mexico fishermen regarding bycatch of PR species and measures being implemented to reduce bycatch.	Sep-07

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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-07 and Sep-08