

Hi Nancy-

We anticipate the new opinion to be completed on or before April 30, 2021.

I have cc'ed Canh Nguyen of our GMT who can address availability of their inspection data; I believe they compile and post their data on a periodic basis, but Canh can confirm those details.

Cheers,

Mike

On Fri, Nov 13, 2020 at 10:13 AM Mathews, Nancy <nmathews@coxseafood.com> wrote:

Hi Michael,

Thank you for providing this enlightening information. Do you have a timeframe for the publication of the new biological opinion? Additionally, we would like to know if the Gear Monitoring Team is planning to make any type of public disclosure of TED Monitoring results to allow the industry to verify TED compliance at a fleet wide level.

I look forward to your comments.

Best regards,

Nancy Mathews

Vice President, Sales & Marketing | Cox's Wholesale Seafood, LLC

P.O. Box 15861 | Tampa, FL 33684

Ph. 800-344-8461

Hi Nancy-

We are currently in the process of drafting a new opinion on the shrimp fisheries. This opinion will utilize a new methodology for estimating sea turtle bycatch and at this time we don't expect to continue relying on and posting TED compliance and TED effectiveness information online. We do intend to continue to ensure TEDs are installed and fished correctly, particularly within the skimmer trawl fisheries when the new TED rule becomes effective for skimmer trawl vessels 40 feet and greater in length on April 1, 2021. Our Gear Monitoring Team will be leading those efforts.

Cheers,

Mike

On Tue, Nov 3, 2020 at 3:55 PM Mathews, Nancy <nmathews@coxseafood.com> wrote:

Hello Michael,

Cox's Wholesale Seafood is heavily involved in advancing the sustainability of the Gulf of Mexico shrimp fisheries. We are the leader of the Florida Pink Shrimp Fishery Improvement Project (FIP) and are an active member of the Texas Shrimp FIP. We are also an active member of the Gulf of Mexico Shrimp Supply Chain Roundtable, where we work pre-competitively with other shrimp processors and distributors to resolve the remaining sustainability issues in the Gulf of Mexico shrimp fisheries. My colleagues on the Supply Chain Roundtable have asked me to reach out to you to discuss the outdated TED Inspections, Compliance, Sea Turtle Capture Rates, and TED Effectiveness information posted on NOAA's webpage.

Our Florida and Texas FIPs initially focused heavily on improving fisher compliance with federal TED regulations. Over the years we have repeatedly requested the boats we buy from to have a qualified expert inspect their TEDs prior to fishing, and to share those results with us. This work, along with NOAA's TED Inspections, Compliance, Sea Turtle Capture Rates, and TED Effectiveness information from 2014-2018 played a significant role in the FIP audit we commissioned in December 2019. The audit recognized the advancements made by the fishery in TED compliance, and the publication of the TED compliance and effectiveness information on NOAA's website allowed an increase in the score for Endangered, Threatened, and Protected Species Information, moving it into the "sustainable" range that would meet the requirements of the prominent sustainability certification standards.

It was our understanding that NOAA would continue posting the TED Inspections, Compliance, Sea Turtle Capture Rates, and TED Effectiveness information on the SERO Turtle Excluder Device webpage on an annual basis. We recently noticed that this information has not been updated to include the 2019 data. This sort of public information plays an important role in our ability to reassure our customers, many of which are large retail chains with commitments to sourcing sustainable seafood, of the continuing efforts of the fishing industry, supply chain and government to improve this fishery to a point where it could obtain an eco-certification. Would it be possible for you to update the website to include 2019 data by the end of the year?

Best Regards,

Nancy Mathews

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