

Protecting Sea Turtles from Shrimp Trawl Nets



Credit: NOAA

 **OCEANA**



What's the Problem?

Not all shrimp boats are required to use Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs)

- * The government estimates that **50,000** sea turtles drown every year in shrimp trawl nets in the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico.
- * While federal regulations require that certain types of nets use **Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs)**, not all types are required to do so.



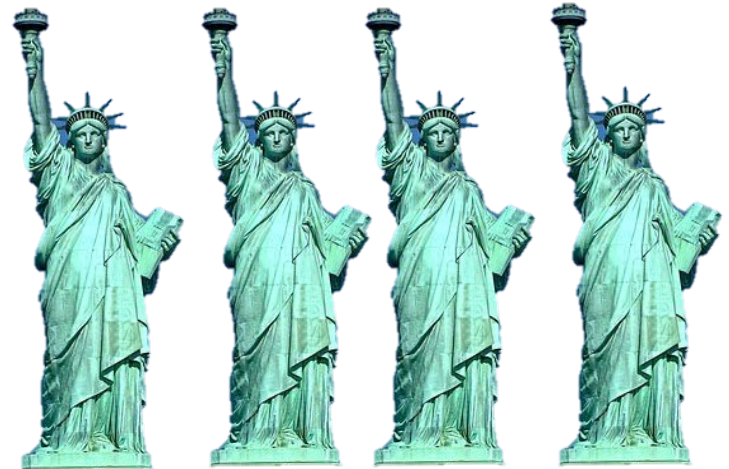
Credit: Oceana/Mar Mas

What About Bycatch?

- * Bycatch is the catch of non-target fish and ocean wildlife.
- * The southeast shrimp trawl fishery throws back 64% of what it catches, exceeding 229 million pounds of wasted fish and ocean wildlife annually.
- * This is as much as 4 times the weight of the State of Liberty!



Credit: NOAA



What's the Solution?

Mandate that all shrimp boats are required to use
Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs)

- * TEDs are metal grates inserted in trawl nets that allow captured sea turtles to escape.



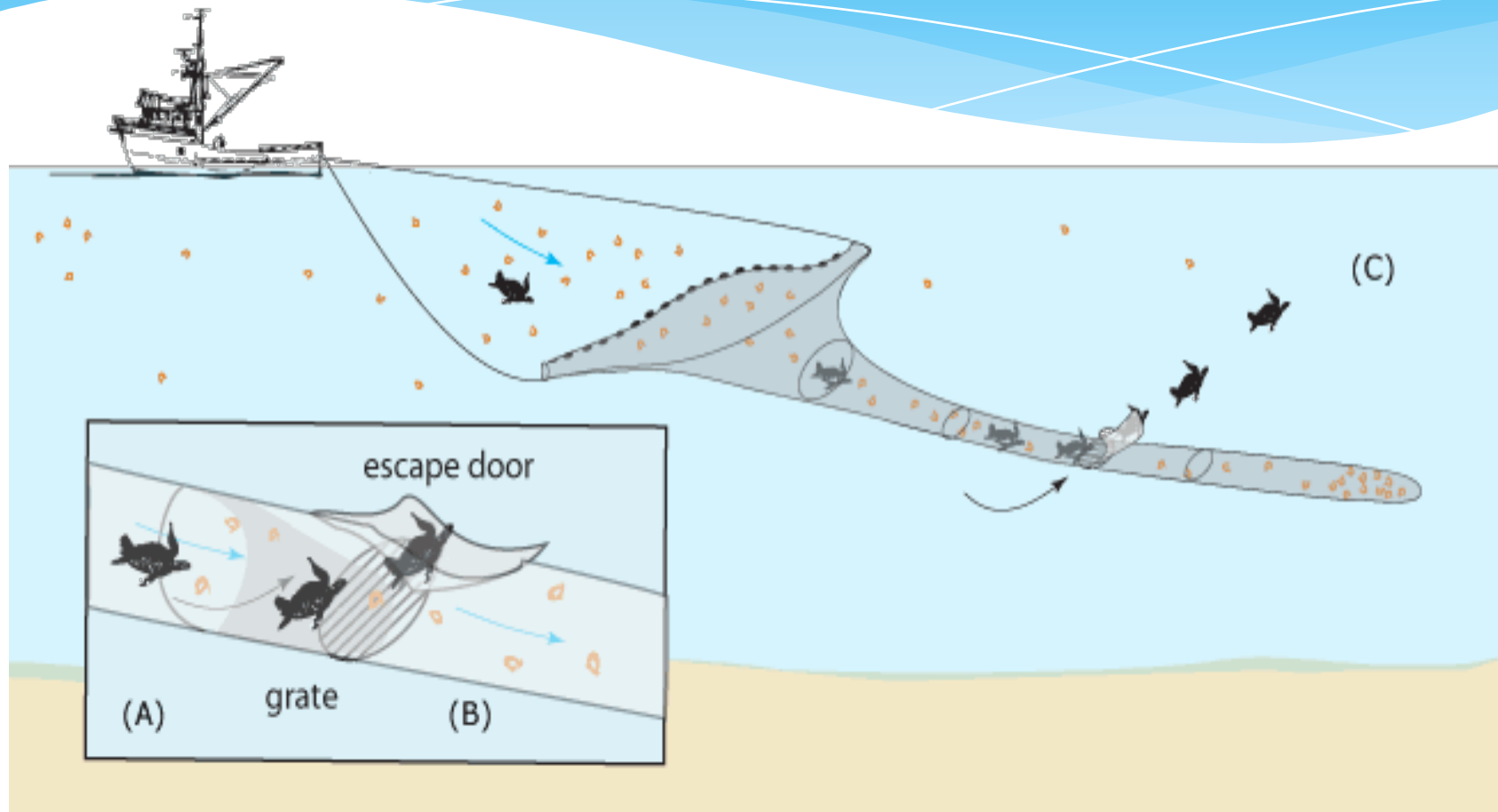
Do TED's Work?

- * When used properly, they are **97% effective** at preventing sea turtle deaths in shrimp trawls!
- * They also allow other large critters such as rays, sharks and larger fish to escape



Credit: NOAA

How do TED's work?



What Else Can Be Done?

- * Require **all** shrimp trawls to use TEDs.
- * Research by the U.S. Fishery Service suggests that reducing the space between a TED's bars by **just 1 inch** can reduce fish Bycatch by 25%, or more than **55 million pounds!** It would also allow smaller turtles to escape.



Why are sea turtles important?

- * Sea turtles **help maintain healthy sea grass beds and coral reefs** that provide key habitats for other marine life and help balance marine food webs.



Credit: NMFS



Credit: USGS

All 5 Species of Sea Turtle in the Southeast are Impacted...



Green



Loggerhead



Leatherback



Kemp's ridley



Hawksbill

... and all are already listed as endangered or threatened.

Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle

- * **Smallest** of the sea turtles
- * Only about **1,000 breeding females** exist worldwide
- * Nest in mass synchronized groups called *arribadas* (Spanish for “arrival”)



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Credit: USEPA



Credit: National Park Service



Leatherback Sea Turtle

- * **Largest** of the sea turtles (up to 8 feet and 1,300 lbs)
- * Instead of a bony shell, they have **leathery connective tissue**
- * Can swim more than **10,000** miles every year



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Credit: Oceana/David Plange



Credit: USFWS



Loggerhead Sea Turtle

- * Eggs in a loggerhead nest that is **below 82°F** will produce **more males**, while a nest **above 85°F** will produce **mostly females**
- * Have callus-like **traction scales** that allow them to walk on the ocean floor



Credit: NOAA



Credit: USFWS

Green Sea Turtle

- * Name comes from their fat and other internal tissues that are green because of a **herbivorous** diet of sea grass and algae
- * Can live for over **80 years**
- * Can lay **200 eggs** at a time



Credits: NOAA

Hawksbill Sea Turtle

- * Females return to their **natal beaches** every 2-3 years to nest
- * Have been **hunted** for hundreds of years for their beautiful shell, known as “tortoise shell”
- * Feed almost exclusively on **sponges**



Credit: NIST

How can you help?

- * Write a letter to President Obama and Secretary Penny Pritzker telling them why you believe sea turtles should be protected.
- * Oceana and One More Generation will collect the letters and present them to the U.S. government on **World Sea Turtle Day**, June 16, 2016.

How can you help?

- * Download our letter template at the following link: [TED Letter Template](#)

The image shows three overlapping letter templates. The top template is filled out with handwritten text in purple ink. The text reads: "Dear President Obama," followed by "Sea Turtles ROCK... and so can you by helping to make sure all shrimping vessels are required to use TED's...". The bottom of the template is signed "Sincerely, Olivia" with "Age: 13" and "State: GA". The bottom two templates are blank.

OCEANA
Dear President Obama and Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker,

Dear President Obama,

Sea Turtles ROCK... and so can you by helping to make sure all shrimping vessels are required to use TED's...

Sincerely,
First Name: *Olivia*
Age: *13*
State: *GA*

Mail to:
One More Generation
Attn: Save Sea Turtles
P.O. Box 143627
Fayetteville GA 30214
info@onemoregeneration.org

Or to:
OCEANA
Attn: Save Sea Turtles
1350 Connecticut Ave.
NW 5th Floor
Washington, DC 20036
lsnyder@oceana.org

How can you help?

- * You can also download a coloring page for your younger siblings and friends and ask them to send us their picture and comments as well: [TED Coloring Page](#)



Please send letters to:

One More Generation
Attn: Save Sea Turtles
P.O. Box 143627
Fayetteville, GA 30214

Oceana
Attn: Save Sea Turtles
1350 Connecticut Ave. NW
5th Floor
Washington, DC 20036

- * Visit OneMoreGeneration.org for more information
- * You can also scan and email your letters and pictures to us at info@onemoregeneration.org or usa.oceana.org/turtles to learn more!

Please send by May 23, 2016.