



**Inter-American Convention for the Protection and
Conservation of Sea Turtles
15th Scientific Committee Meeting
September 17-19, 2018, Tegucigalpa, Honduras**

CIT-CC15-2018-Doc.3

IAC REGION SEA TURTLE EXCLUDER DEVICES

In order to fulfill the provisions established in Annex III, numerals 3 and 7, clauses a), b) and 8 of the text of the Convention, the *Pro Tempore* Secretariat requested that the Focal Points of the Parties send information on the turtle excluder devices (TEDs) currently being used in accordance with the mandates established in their national legislation.

Based on the information submitted by the Focal Points and the information reported by the Parties in their Annual Reports, the IAC Scientific Committee, in its fifteenth meeting, prepared a list of TEDs that the countries party to the Convention reported using in order to reduce sea turtle bycatch in shrimp trawl operations. Regulations from each included are available in the IAC website section Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) <http://www.iacseaturtle.org/dets-eng.htm>

This list, as provided for by the IAC, will be periodically updated with the information reported by the Parties in their Annual Reports and evaluated by the Scientific and Consultative Committees.

The list should be submitted at the next meeting of the Consultative Committee of Experts for their information. With the favorable opinion of the CCE, the list should then be submitted as an agenda item for the information and consideration of the Parties of the Convention at their next meeting.

The Scientific Committee urges the party countries of the IAC to fulfill their obligation in requiring the appropriate use (installation and operation) of turtle excluder devices (TEDs) in all shrimp trawl vessels under their jurisdiction, in a way that leads towards an increased selectivity of shrimp trawlers in order to reduce sea turtle bycatch in fishing operations in the area of the Convention.

LIST OF TURTLE EXCLUDER DEVICES																
Updated – October 30, 2018																
COUNTRY/ TYPE OF TED	ARGENTINA	BELIZE	BRAZIL	CHILE	COSTA RICA	ECUADOR	USA	GUATEMALA	HONDURAS	MEXICO	NETHERLANDS	PANAMA	PERU	DOMINICAN REP.	URUGUAY	VENEZUELA
OBSERVATIONS	NA	NA	*	NA	*	*	*				NA	*	NA	*	NA	NA
LEGISLATION			Y		Y		Y	Y	Y	Y		Y				
TYPE OF TEDs																
ANTHONY WEEDLESS										X						
FED-INP										X						
FLOUNDER TED							X									
GEORGIA JUMPER										X		X				
HARD TED 2"									X							
HOOPED HARD TEDs							X									
MATAGORDA																
SAUNDERS GRID										X						
SINGLE GRID HARD TEDs							X									
SPECIALIZED TEDs							X									
SUPER SHOOTER (rigido) 6"					X	X		X		X						
SUPER SHOOTER 4"					X	X	X			X						
TED DE BARRA PLANA							X									
WEEDLESS TED							X									
NA - Does not apply/* See notes below																
Y - The country has legislation that establishes the mandatory use of TEDs																

Brazil – Although Brazil has regulations for trawl fisheries, there is inadequate government monitoring and enforcement on the use of TEDs, as a result, the country was decertified to export shrimp to the United States in 2014.

Costa Rica - Law 8436 on Fisheries and Aquaculture, Art. 149 forces the use of TEDs in shrimp trawl fleet. Trawl fishing will be allowed until 2019 when the last permit expires.

Dominican Republic – CODOPESCA explained that TEDs are not used in the Dominican Republic because their nets are not for industrial fishing and are relatively small.

Ecuador – Ministerial Agreement No. 425 of October 05, 2012 bans trawl fishing in Ecuador. As an exception, and according to Ministerial Agreement No. 019, vessels fishing “pomada” shrimp (*Potracyphene precipua*) are allowed to carry on with their activity under strict management measures and regulations established by the competent authority.

Panamá – Executive Decree N° 82 of April 1 of 2005, establishes that specifications established by the National Marine Fisheries Service of NOAA will be used for TED inspections.

United States – the USA only requires TEDs in otter trawls and there are no requirements in skimmer trawls yet.

Venezuela – Trawl fishing is banned in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela according to Article 34 of the Decree with the Status and Force of Law of Reform of the Decree with Status and Force of Law on Fisheries and Aquaculture N° 1.408 of November 13, 2014, published in the Extraordinary Official Gazette.