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# Status of Bycatch Initiatives

CCC Meeting – May 27, 2020

# Outline

- Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology (SBRM)
- Bycatch Reduction Strategy Implementation Plan
- Bycatch Reduction Engineering Program (BREP)



Pfleger researchers test gear to reduce sea turtle bycatch in California drift gillnet fishery.



Texas A&M University researchers to reduce reef fish Barotrauma.

# Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology (SBRM)

- MSA requires all FMPs establish a SBRM.
- Final rule published January 19, 2017.
- Final rule focuses on process for documenting and reviewing SBRMs.
- All FMPs must be consistent with Final Rule by Feb 21, 2022 (5 years).
  - Conduct a review of FMPs for consistency
  - Amend FMPs, *if needed*, to be consistent



# Bycatch Reduction Strategy Implementation Plan

- Final Bycatch Strategy – December 2016  
<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/bycatch/national-bycatch-reduction-strategy>
- We have finalized an Implementation Plan
- Implementation Plan lays out actions that NOAA Fisheries will take to implement the National Bycatch Reduction Strategy.



# Bycatch Reduction Engineering Program

- Fiscal Year 2020 funding opportunity – announced in December 2019
- Received 104 pre-proposals and 48 full applications across all regions and priorities.
- Plan to award grants in summer of 2020.



*Inexpensive LED lighting attached to nets shows promise in reducing sea turtle and seabird bycatch.*

# Questions?



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