



INTERNATIONAL WATERS RESULTS NOTES

<http://www.iwlearn.net/results>

03-10-2011

Reduction of Environmental Impact from Tropical Shrimp Trawling through the Introduction of By-catch Reduction Technologies and Change of Management

GEF ID#: 884 GEF Agency Project ID# GFL/2731-02-4469 (UNEP), Project Status: Completed



1. A study conducted in Iran extrapolates and quantifies the number of escaped juveniles due to By-catch Reduction Devices (BRDs) to between 400,000 and 500,000 for a single season.
- 2 Experimental by-catch reduction tests in Iran and the Philippines saw a reduction by 40% while a similar study in Mexico saw a 60% decrease.
3. Guide book on By-catch Reduction in Tropical Shrimp Trawl Fisheries has been produced in five languages and a 25 minute DVD on the same subject has also been released to concerned stakeholders

Ms. Marie Prchalova
Programme Officer
UNEP
marie.prchalova@unep.org

PROJECT OBJECTIVE

The project focused on three major objectives, 1) to reduce non-shrimp by-catch taken by shrimp trawlers 2) to reduce capture of juvenile fish, specifically those for human consumption, and 3) increase knowledge on the impact of shrimp trawling on marine habitats.

RESULTS: PROCESS

INDICATOR#1 (Enactment of relevant legislation and development of an improved management framework)

Cameroon recently passed a law which made the use of Turtle Exclusion Devices (TEDs) and BRDs a stipulation for receiving a commercial fishing license, while six other nations have already made TEDs mandatory for parts of their fisheries. Costa Rica adopted modifications of its fishing gear, while Venezuela introduced a complete trawl ban in March 2009.

INDICATOR#2 (Increased use of BRDs in national fisheries)

By-catch Reduction Devices have become mandatory in notable segments of some national fisheries, including those of Cuba, Indonesia, Iran, and Mexico.

RESULTS: STRESS REDUCTION

INDICATOR#1 (Reduction in number of juveniles caught and held)

A study conducted in Iran extrapolated and quantified the number of escaped juveniles due to BRDs at between 400,000 and 500,000 for a single season.

INDICATOR#2 (Reduction of by-catch in shrimp trawls)

The number of sea turtles caught in the shrimp trawls was significantly reduced, along with other by-catch, with reduction totals reaching 40% in the Philippines and 60% in Mexico.

RESULTS: WATER RESOURCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS

INDICATOR#1 (Introduction of BRDs to national shipping fleets)

New trawls with fisheye BRDs were introduced to 80% of the Cuban fleet in 2009, with advantages such as by-catch reduction, lower fuel consumption, saving of material, and higher export value of the shrimp catch. Indonesia already had TEDs in use since 1982 but tested new types of BRDs, while Mexico was able to expand on their existing BRD testing and regulation and develop a new TED prototype.

INDICATOR#2 (Introduction of BRDs to national shipping fleets)

In Iran, the grid (Grid 80) became mandatory on all industrial trawlers and all shrimp fisheries are regulated through effort reduction such as buy-back of licenses and gear swaps. In Nigeria, the introduction of BRDs allowed them to obtain recertification of the shrimp export to the US, the Philippines carried out fishing trials and identified a new BRD (Juvenile Trash Excluder Device), while Venezuela carried out tests of new fishing gear.

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) *International Waters Results Notes* series helps the transboundary water management (TWM) community share its practical experiences to promote better TWM. To obtain current *IW Results Notes* or to contribute your own, please visit <http://www.iwlearn.net/results> or email info@iwlearn.org.