

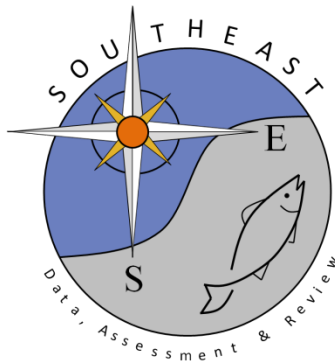
State Management History:

Florida

Council & State Staff

SEDAR87-RW-05

2025



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Harvest Restrictions (Trip Limits*)

*Trip limits do not apply during closures (if season is closed, then trip limit is 0)

| First Yr In Effect | Last Yr In Effect | Effective Date | EndDate | Fishery | Harvest limitation | Region Affected | FR/ State Rule Reference |
|--------------------|-------------------|----------------|-----------|-----------|---|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1961 | Ongoing | 22-Jun-61 | N/A | All three | Prohibits the take or catch of shrimp, other than bait shrimp, with any type of net or other method, from January 1 until June 1 of each year | Portion of Santa Rosa sound lying in Escambia, Santa Rosa and Okaloosa counties | CH 61-525; 1961 Laws of Florida |
| 1961 | 1967 | 22-May-61 | 4-Aug-67 | All three | Prohibits catching of shrimp between sundown and sunrise from Sept 1 to Dec 1 | Within three nautical miles offshore Franklin | CH 61-2185; 1961 Laws of Florida |
| 1961 | 1968 | 1-Jul-61 | 8-Mar-68 | All three | Prohibits catching of shrimp between sundown and sunrise from Sept 1 to Dec 1 | Within three nautical miles from Cape San Blas in Gulf county to Franklin | CH 61-2209; 1961 Laws of Florida |
| 1965 | 1970 | 25-Jun-65 | 2-Jul-70 | All three | Prohibits to catch, kill or destroy shrimp any small shrimp, provided such small shrimp constitute at least 5% of all shrimp in such possession. Small shrimp are defined as those that requires more than 47 with the heads or 70 without the heads to make a pound by shrimp | All state waters | CH 65-343; 1965 Laws of Florida |
| 1967 | Ongoing | 4-Aug-67 | N/A | All three | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prohibits to catch, kill or destroy shrimp any small shrimp, provided such small shrimp constitute at least 5% of all shrimp in such possession. Small shrimp are defined as those that requires more than 47 with the heads or 70 without the heads to make a pound by shrimp count. Prohibits the taking of shrimp from certain waters using any method other than a hand crab net or cast net from Jan 1 - Sept 15 Prohibits the taking of shrimp from certain waters at night from Sept 15 - Dec 31 These prohibitions will not apply to the | Certain waters of Escambia and Santa Rosa counties | CH 67-634; 1967 Laws of Florida |
| 1967 | 1996 | 4-Aug-67 | 16-Jul-96 | All three | Prohibits to catch, kill or destroy shrimp any small shrimp, provided such small shrimp constitute at least 5% of all shrimp in such possession. Small shrimp are defined as those that requires more than 55 with the heads or 85 without the heads to make a pound by shrimp | All state waters of Franklin county | CH 67-1063; 1967 Laws of Florida |
| 1970 | Ongoing | 2-Jul-70 | N/A | All three | Prohibits to catch, kill or destroy shrimp any small shrimp, provided such small shrimp constitute at least 5% of all shrimp in such possession. Small shrimp are defined as those that requires more than 47 with the heads or 70 without the heads to make a pound by shrimp | All state and federal waters | CH 70-344; 1970 Laws of Florida |
| 1982 | 1992 | 6-Jul-82 | 1-Jan-92 | All three | Prohibits the take of shrimp which are not at least of such size that they count no more than 55 shrimp with heads on to one pound. | All state waters south of or between the Apalachicola River and the Choctawhatchee River | CH 82-407; 1982 Laws of Florida |
| 1992 | Ongoing | 1-Jan-92 | N/A | All three | Recreational bag limit: 5 gallons of shrimp, heads on per person or per vessel, whichever is less. Requires recreationally harvested shrimp to be landed in whole condition. | All state waters | CH 46-31, Florida Administrative Code |
| 1992 | Ongoing | 1-Jan-92 | N/A | All three | Prohibits food shrimp producers statewide from possessing more than 47 heads on/70 heads off shrimp per pound (except seabobs) | All state waters | CH 46-31, Florida Administrative Code |
| 1992 | Ongoing | 1-Jan-92 | N/A | All three | Established that possession aboard a vessel within state waters of the Tortugas Shrimp Beds of more than 5 gallons of heads-on dead shrimp at the same time any shrimp trawl is deployed shall constitute prima facie evidence that such shrimp were taken within the Beds as an illegal food shrimp activity. | Tortugas Shrimp beds | CH 46-31, Florida Administrative Code |
| 1995 | 1995 | 12-Oct-95 | 31-Oct-95 | White | Suspends minimum county (size) regulations on white shrimp harvested from Apalachicola Bay | Apalachicola Bay | CH 46-31, Florida Administrative Code |

Harvest Restrictions (Spatial Restrictions)

| Florida | First Yr In Effect | Effective Date | End Date | Fishery | First Day Closed | Last Day Closed | Restriction in Area | Rule Reference |
|---|--------------------|----------------|-----------|---------|------------------|--|--|--|
| Each county in the State having a population of $7,000 \leq X \leq 7,800$ | 1959 | 20-Jun-59 | 22-May-61 | All | 1-Jun | 31-Jul | Prohibits all shrimping within three miles off shore each county in the state that falls within the population threshold | CH 59-1014; 1959 Laws of Florida |
| Each county in the State having a population of $5,500 \leq X \leq 6,000$ | 1959 | 20-Jun-59 | 22-May-61 | All | 1-Jun | 31-Jul | Prohibits all shrimping within three miles off shore each county in the state that falls within the population threshold | CH 59-1023; 1959 Laws of Florida |
| Within three nautical miles offshore Franklin County | 1961 | 22-May-61 | 10-Jul-63 | All | 1-Jun | 31-Aug | Prohibits the taking of shrimp from June 1-Aug 31 offshore Franklin county | CH 61-2183; 1961 Laws of Florida |
| Tortugas shrimp nursery area | 1961 | 22-Jun-61 | Ongoing | All | Year round | | Established the tortugas shrimp nursery area which no shrimping shall be permitted at any time, except live bait production | CH 61-470; 1961 Laws of Florida |
| Certain waters of Walton county | 1965 | 1-Jul-65 | Ongoing | All | Year round | | Prohibits trawling for shrimp in certain waters of the Choctawhatchee bay | CH 65-2369; 1965 Laws of Florida |
| Certain waters of Franklin County - Apalachicola Bay, St. George Sound, and St. Vincent Sound | 1967 | 4-Aug-67 | 16-Jul-92 | All | 1-Jan | 15-Jul | Trawling or fishing at anytime is authorized | CH 67-1063; 1967 Laws of Florida |
| | | | 18-Jun-81 | | 15-Jul | 15-Sep | Trawling or fishing at anytime is prohibited | |
| | | | 15-Sep | | 31-Dec | Trawling during the daytime is authorized, trawling at nighttime is prohibited | | |
| Certain waters of Franklin County - South of the Gorrie memorial bridge | 1969 | 15-Jun-69 | Ongoing | All | 1-Jan | 15-Aug | Trawling at anytime is authorized | CH 69-1067; 1969 Laws of Florida |
| | | | | | 16-Aug | 14-Sep | Trawling at any time is prohibited | |
| | | | | | 15-Sep | 31-Dec | Trawling during the daytime is authorized, trawling at nighttime is prohibited | |
| Apalachicola Bay | 1972 | 1-Apr-72 | 16-Jul-96 | All | Year round | | Authorizes shrimping in the waters east of the Bryant Patton bridge | CH 72-546; 1972 Laws of Florida |
| Gulf waters off Monroe County | 1979 | 28-Jun-79 | Ongoing | All | Year round | | Prohibits shrimping except for live bait shrimp | CH 79-263; 1979 Laws of Florida |
| Certain waters of Franklin County - Apalachicola Bay, St. George Sound, and St. Vincent Sound | 1981 | 18-Jun-81 | 16-Jul-96 | All | 1-Jan | 15-Jul | Trawling or fishing at anytime is authorized | CH 81-377; 1981 Laws of Florida |
| | | | | | 15-Sep | 31-Dec | | |
| | | | | | 15-Jul | 15-Sep | Trawling during the daytime is authorized, trawling at nighttime is prohibited | |
| Certain waters off Wakulla County | 1981 | 26-Jun-81 | 22-Jun-83 | All | 1-Mar | 1-May | Prohibits shrimping unless using a trawler which can maneuver in a 150 foot to 200 foot radius | CH 81-199; 1981 Laws of Florida |
| St. Marks Channel to Baileys Bluff | 1993 | 29-Nov-93 | Ongoing | All | Year round | | Prohibits all shrimping in approximately 500,000 acres of inshore waters in the region from the St. Marks Channel to Bailey's Bluff in shallow water characterized by dense and patchy seagrass bottom habitat | CH 46-3 and 46-31, Florida Administrative Code |
| Big Bend Region | 1993 | 29-Nov-93 | Ongoing | All | 1-Jul | 31-Aug | Prohibits food shrimping in all state waters of the Big Bend region in July and August each year | CH 46-3 and 46-31, Florida Administrative Code |
| Apalachicola/Northwest/Big Bend Regions | 1996 | 15-Jul-96 | Ongoing | All | Year round | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closed area north of the John Gorrie Bridge in Apalachicola Bay. • Closure of areas in St. Vincent Sound known as Big Bayou, Sheepshead Bayou, and Indian Lagoon year-round. • Closure of the Carrabelle River year-round. • Closes specified nearshore and inshore waters in Wakulla County year-round to all harvest of shrimp (except recreational). | CH 46-31, Florida Administrative Code |
| | | | | | 15-Jul | 15-Sep | Retained the daytime closure from July 15 through Sept 15 in St. Vincent Sound and Apalachicola Bay | |
| | | | | | 15-Sep | 31-Dec | Closure of a specified area in St. George Sound south of Green Point from September 15 through December 31 | |
| | | | | | 1-Mar | 31-May | Closure of a specified area between the shipping channel and the mouth of St. Vincent Sound in Apalachicola Bay from March 1 through May 31 | |

Harvest Restrictions (Gear Restrictions*)

*Area specific gear regulations are documented under spatial restrictions

| Gear Type | First Yr In Effect | Last Yr In Effect | Effective Date | End Date | Gear/Harvesting Restrictions | Region Affected | FR/State Rule Reference |
|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------|----------------|-----------|---|--|----------------------------------|
| Nets and trawls | 1951 | Ongoing | 11-Jun-51 | N/A | Prohibits the taking of shrimp by any method other than hand crab nets or cast nets from June 30 - Sept 15 and from Jan 1 - Apr 15 | State waters of Escambia Bay | CH 27265; 1951 Laws of Florida |
| Nets | 1953 | Ongoing | 15-Jun-53 | N/A | Allows the take of bait shrimp, regardless of season or size, by use of round dip nets, not more than twenty-six inches in diameter, cast nets, trawl or try nets not more than six feet in length, and three feet in height, and equipped with at least two rollers which shall either extend the width of the trawl if single or set to support the outside ends if doubled, or by seines not more than seventy-five feet in length, by six feet deep | State waters of counties with a population $6,350 \leq X \leq 6,650$ | CH 28672; 1953 Laws of Florida |
| Nets | 1953 | Ongoing | 15-Jun-53 | N/A | Made it unlawful to take bait shrimp from the waters of any county, except with a cast net | State waters of counties with a population $60,000 \leq X \leq 80,000$ | CH 28703; 1953 Laws of Florida |
| Trawls | 1955 | 1992 | 15-Jun-55 | 1/1/92 | Prohibits the take of shrimp by the use of a trawl more than 45 feet in cork line length or by use of a trawl or shrimp net with a stretched mesh of less than one and three quarter in | State waters of Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa and Walton counties | CH 30286; 1955 Laws of Florida |
| Nets | 1959 | 1965 | 27-Apr-59 | 1-Jun-65 | Prohibits the taking of shrimp with a siene, net or other device having a cork-line length of more than fifty feet. Prohibits the taking of shrimp upon any vessel employing more than one net or device rigged for shrimping | Apalachicola Bay, St. George's sound, St. Vincent's sound, and waters lying within Franklin county | CH 59-1295; 1959 Laws of Florida |
| Trawls | 1959 | 1961 | 17-Jun-59 | 22-Jun-61 | Prohibits the taking of shrimp by trawling when the whole lead line measures more than thirty-five feet | Specified area of Choctawhatchee bay | CH 59-971; 1959 Laws of Florida |
| Trawls | 1959 | Ongoing | 20-Jun-59 | N/A | Prohibits the take of any shrimp by trawl whose lead line measures greater than twelve feet. | State waters of counties with a population $18,500 \leq X \leq 20,000$ | CH 59-582; 1959 Laws of Florida |
| Trawls | 1961 | Ongoing | 1-Jul-61 | N/A | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prohibits the taking of shrimp using anything other than one main trawl and one set of boards for towing said trawl on deck aboard any vessel. Prohibits more than one complete try net and boards for same on deck aboard the vessel. The size of the main trawl shall be limited to and not exceed thirty-five feet on the cork line. The mesh size shall not be smaller than one and one-half inches stretched mesh for nylon webbing and two inches stretched mesh for cotton webbing. These sizes shall apply to the tail bag as well as the trawl. There shall be no double tail bags on any trawl used. The tail bag shall not be lined with small mesh webbing. Leg lines shall not exceed ten feet in length from the trawl to the aft of the board. The size of the try net shall not exceed eight feet on the cork line. These prohibitions shall not apply to the taking of live shrimp for bait. | In all counties having a population of $64,000 \leq X \leq 68,000$ | CH 61-714; 1961 Laws of Florida |
| Trawls | 1961 | 1992 | 22-Jun-61 | 1/1/92 | Prohibits the taking of shrimp by trawling when the whole lead line measures more than forty-five feet | Specified area of Choctawhatchee bay | CH 61-2566; 1961 Laws of Florida |
| Trawls | 1963 | Ongoing | 6-Jun-63 | N/A | Prohibits the taking of shrimp inside the waters of such county by the use of a trawl more than forty-five feet in cork line length, or two trawls of more than twenty-two and one half feet in cork length each, and that the legs on any such net or trawl shall not exceed eight feet in length. | Any state waters of counties having a population of $64,000 \leq X \leq 68,000$ | CH 63-747; 1963 Laws of Florida |
| Trawls | 1967 | | 18-Aug-67 | N/A | Allows the harvest of white shrimp with a net, for the sole purpose of bait, during the months of August, September, and October provided that the net has a cork length of no more than fifty feet, said cork line being a distance of fifty feet from the place that the net ties onto the cork line at one end, to the place where the net ties onto the cork line at the other end; and that such net has mesh no smaller than one inch bar or two inch stretch. | Waters of Ochlockonee river and Dixon bay in Wakulla county | CH 67-2233; 1967 Laws of Florida |
| Trawls | 1969 | Ongoing | 2-Jul-69 | N/A | Authorizes trawling for shrimp in certain waters | Certain state waters in any county havinf a population of $45,000 \leq X \leq 51,000$ | CH 69-683; 1969 Laws of Florida |
| Otter Trawls | 1969 | Ongoing | 3-Jul-69 | N/A | Prohibits the use of otter trawls for shrimp in certain waters | Certain state waters in any county havinf a population of $45,000 \leq X \leq 51,000$ and any county of the state having a population of more than 460,000 | CH 69-595; 1969 Laws of Florida |
| Nets and trawls | 1970 | 1992 | 16-Jun-70 | 1-Jan-92 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prohibits the take of shrimp with a net or trawl that exceeds forty five feet in corkline length, or two nets exceeding twenty two and one half feet on corkline length per boat. The leg lines of each net shall not exceed eight feet on both cork and lead lines. One try net not to exceed ten feet on corkline length shall be permitted on each boat engaged in taking shrimp. There shall be no cutbacks on the try net. Prohibits the use of nets of a mesh size smaller than one and one half inches. The minimum mesh size shall also apply to try nets. The mesh size shall include all parts of the shrimp net. Chaffing gear shall be tied on the outside of the net and shall not be tied off. Only one such chaffing gear shall be applied to one net. | Waters of Walton or Okaloosa counties | CH 70-978; 1970 Laws of Florida |
| Nets | 1973 | 1975 | 29-Jun-73 | 1-Oct-75 | Prohibits the use of nets in excess of 18 feet from April 1 to June 15 each year | Within three nautical miles from Cape San Blas in Gulf county to Cape St. George in Franklin county | CH 73-362; 1973 Laws of Florida |
| Nets and trawls | 1973 | 1992 | 1-Oct-73 | 1-Jan-92 | Prohibits the take of shrimp by the use of a net or trawl more than forty five feet in cork length, or by the use of two nets or trawls more than twenty two and one half feet in cork line length each, and provided further that the leg lines on any such net or trawl shall not exceed eight feet in length | Inland esuarine waters of Bay County | CH 73-404; 1973 Laws of Florida |

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|------|---------|-----------|-----------|---|--|--|
| Nets | 1975 | | 1-Oct-75 | N/A | Prohibits the take of shrimp with the use of nets in excess of 18 feet on the cork line and in excess of 24 feet on the lead line and in excess of 3 feet on the leg line with trawl doors or otter boards which exceed 36 inches in length by 18 inches in width from April 1 to June 15 each year | Within three nautical miles from Cape San Blas in Gulf county to Cape St. George in Franklin | CH 75-262; 1975 Laws of Florida |
| Trawl | 1976 | 1979 | 25-Jun-76 | 1-Jul-79 | Prohibits the take of shrimp using any trawl net exceeding 25 ft in width | Charlotte county waters | CH 76-343; 1976 Laws of Florida |
| Trawl | 1977 | 1992 | 5-Jul-77 | 1-Jan-92 | Authorizes the use or possession of one try net, not to exceed ten feet in the cork line length for the taking of shrimp | Inland esuarine waters of Bay County | CH 77-500; 1755 Laws of Florida |
| Trawl | 1978 | 1979 | 30-May-78 | 6-Jun-79 | Prohibits the take of shrimp using nets in excess of 18 feet on the cork line, in excess of 24 feet on the lead line, and in excess of 3 ft on the leg line with trawl doors or other boards which exceed 36 inches in length by 18 inches in width | State waters in an area near Cedar Key | CH 78-73; 1978 Laws of Florida |
| Trawl | 1979 | | 6-Jun-79 | N/A | Prohibits the take of shrimp except with single rig boats 35 feet or less in length or, with nets not to exceed 35 feet on the cork line, 45 feet on the lead line, and 5 feet on the leg line with trawl doors or other boards which exceed 48 inches in length by 24 inches in width. | State waters in an area near Cedar Key | CH 79-168; 1979 Laws of Florida |
| Traps | 1979 | Ongoing | 28-Jun-79 | N/A | Enacted regulations on shrimp traps. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prohibits the take of shrimp with traps which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceeds 36 inches long by 24 inches wide by 12 inches high; or has external or unattached wings, weirs, or other devices intended to funnel shrimp to the trap heart | All state waters | CH 79-263; 1979 Laws of Florida |
| Trawls | 1979 | 1992 | 5-Jul-79 | 1-Jan-92 | Prohibits the use of a trawl greater that 25 feet in length. Also prohibits the use of more than one trawl net to take shrimp. | State waters of Gasparilla sound in Charlotte Harbor | CH 79-437; 1979 Laws of Florida |
| Mesh | 1979 | 2017 | 5-Jul-79 | 1-Feb-17 | Prohibits the taking of shrimp using nets with a stretched mesh of 1.5/8th inches of larger. | State waters of Gulf County | CH 79-466; 1979 Laws of Florida |
| TED | 1989 | Ongoing | 9-Aug-89 | N/A | Prohibits persons from operating or fishing in any state waters any trawl that is not equipped with a qualified TED. This rule does not apply to a roller frame trawl | Any state waters | CH 46-31, Florida Administrative Code |
| Nets and trawls | 1992 | Ongoing | 1-Jan-92 | N/A | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreational fishermen to use only a landing or dip net with an opening no larger than 96 inches around the perimeter, cast nets, push nets, one frame net with an opening no larger than 16 feet around the perimeter, legal shrimp traps, beach or haul seines no greater than 100 feet in length, and an otter trawl with a headrope length not greater than 16 feet and a perimeter around the leading edge of the net not greater than 48 feet. Allows harvesters of live bait shrimp to only use a roller frame trawl with neither the upper or lower horizontal beams greater than 16 feet in length, vertical bars shielding the trawl opening spaced no more than 3 inches apart, no more than two such trawls to be towed by a single vessel at any time, and a minimum net mesh size of 5/8 inch bar measurement in the net body and 7/8 inch bar measurement in the net bag Allows food shrimp producers to use only the following gear: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Escambia through Franklin counties (inshore waters) - a roller frame trawl with neither the upper or lower horizontal beam greater than 16 feet in length, vertical bars shielding the trawl opening spaced no further than 3 inches apart, and no more than four such trawls to be towed by a single vessel at any time; a single otter trawl with a headrope length not greater than 50 feet and a perimeter around the leading edge of the net not greater than 150 feet, or two otter trawls, each with a headrope length not greater than 25 feet and a perimeter around the leading edge not greater than 75 feet (two legal trawls may be connected and each attached to a sled as long as the trawls are continuously separated at least 10 feet apart during trawling); minimum net mesh size - 3/4 inch bar measurement in the net body and 5/8 inch bar measurement in the net bag Wakulla through Pasco counties (all state waters) - a roller frame trawl with neither the upper or lower horizontal beam greater than 16 feet in length (beginning January 1, 1994), vertical bars | State waters, separate boundaries for certain regulations | CH 46-31, Florida Administrative Code |
| Trawl | 1995 | 1995 | 3-Jul-95 | 30-Sep-95 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emergency rule that prohibited the use of any trawl in inshore and nearshore state waters that contains more than 500 square feet of mesh area Prohibits the use of any otter trawl that has a perimeter around its mouth greater than 66 feet Prohibits the use of more than two unconnected otter trawls, including any try net | State waters | Emergency Rule, CH 46ER95-1, FAC |
| Trawl | 1996 | Ongoing | 1-Jan-96 | N/A | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prohibits the use of any trawl in inshore and nearshore state waters with more than 500 square feet of mesh area Allows the use of otter trawls with a perimeter around the opening no greater than 66 feet in all areas of the state where otter trawls are allowed in inshore and nearshore waters Prohibits the use of more than two unconnected trawls, including any try net, in inshore and nearshore state waters Allows the use of trawls for the directed harvest of shrimp only Prohibits the use of otter trawls by recreational fishermen | State waters | CH 46-31, Florida Administrative Code |
| Frame nets | 1996 | Ongoing | 3-Jun-96 | N/A | Allows recreational fishermen statewide to harvest shrimp with frame nets if such gear is deployed from a vessel, or from a structure other than an operational bridge or causeway, or from a catwalk attached to such bridge or causeway | State waters | CH 46-31, Florida Administrative Code |
| BRD | 1998 | 2010 | 17-Aug-98 | 19-Jan-10 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires a legal, functioning bycatch reduction device (BRD) to be installed and used in all otter trawls rigged for fishing by food and live bait shrimp producers in all state waters Prohibits the rigging or altering of BRDs installed in trawls in a manner that would render the BRD nonfunctioning or ineffective Provides a process of expedited rulemaking (as provided in the Administrative Procedure Act) to be employed to allow the use of new BRDs that are approved and certified for use by the National Marine Fisheries Service | State waters | CH 46-31, Florida Administrative Code |
| Skimmer trawls | 1999 | Ongoing | 1-Jun-99 | N/A | Allows the use of no more than two unconnected skimmer trawls per vessel to harvest shrimp in waters of Apalachicola Bay in a specified area south of the Gorrie Bridge. | State waters | CH 46-31, Florida Administrative Code |
| Skimmer trawls | 2003 | Ongoing | 1-Jan-03 | N/A | Allows the use of skimmer trawls to harvest food shrimp commercially in the Northwest region | State waters | CH 68B-31, Florida Administrative Code |
| BRD | 2010 | Ongoing | 19-Jan-10 | N/A | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows the use of bycatch reduction devices for shrimp trawls in Florida waters that have been certified for use in adjacent federal waters. Automatically allows future federally approved bycatch reduction devices to be used in state waters. Continues to allow use of the Florida finfish excluder (fisheye) in inshore and nearshore state waters. | State waters | CH 68B-31, Florida Administrative Code |