

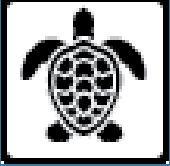
# ***Pilot implementation of AIS in the Gulf of Mexico state permitted shrimp fishery to better understand nearshore/inshore fishing effort to reduce sea turtle bycatch (RW AIS)***

## **Project Introduction for the GSMFC**

*Rebecca Hazelkorn, NOAA Southeast Regional Office*

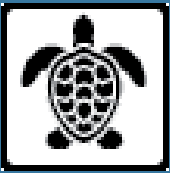
*Jamie Schubert, NOAA Restoration Center*

*Sara Wissmann, NOAA Office of Protected Resources*



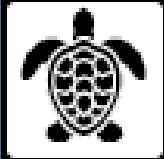
# Purpose and Goals of RW AIS

- Funded through the Regionwide Trustee Implementation Group (RW TIG) Restoration Plan 1 (Approved September 2021)
  - Duration : 3-year project, with planning having started in August 2022
- To better understand spatial and temporal effort of state-permitted shrimp vessels that generally fish in inshore and nearshore waters
- Project would purchase and install Class B AIS units for participating vessels, and collect tracking data for ~2 fishing seasons
- Project data would be used during future restoration planning to assist with understanding the overlap of GOM shrimp fishing effort, sea turtle distribution, and sea turtle mortality

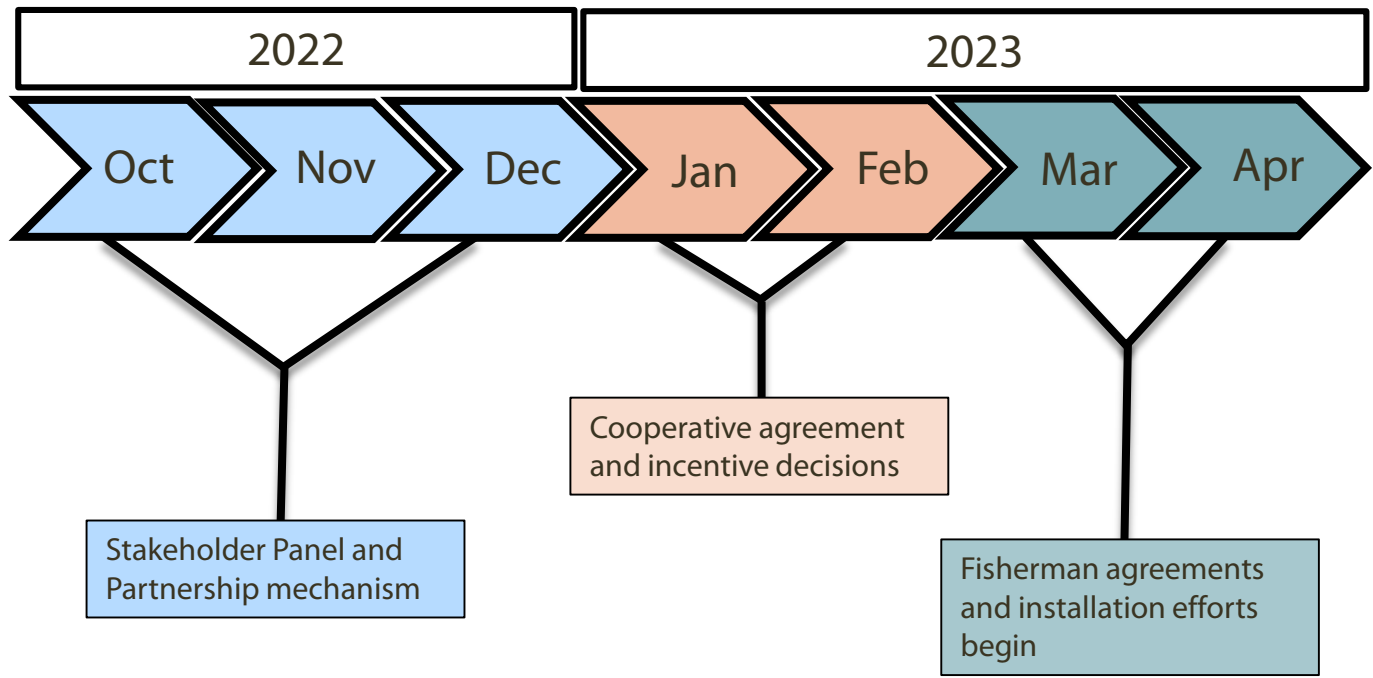


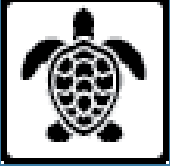
## RW AIS Objectives

1. Recruit sufficient participation and develop the terms of participant agreements
  - a. Vessel operator participation is 100% voluntary, with potential for incentive-based participation
  - b. Equipment would be permanently transferred to participants
2. Purchase and install Class B AIS units on participating vessels and collect/analyze tracking data for ~2 fishing seasons.
3. Identify overlap between known sea turtle presence through available data and the inshore shrimp trawl fishing effort in the GOM



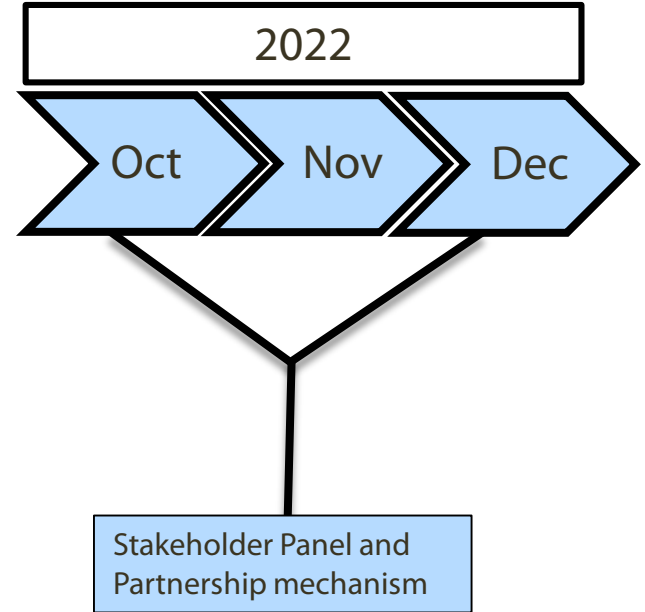
# RW AIS Project Timeline (Short-term overview)

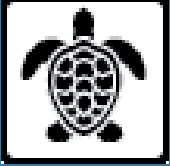




# RW AIS Project Timeline (short term)

- Now through end of 2022
  - Establish Stakeholder Panel composed of a fishery manager from each state to provide communication with the fishery
  - Determine partnership mechanisms for outreach efforts and contract support (potentially GSMFC)
  - Provide information to fishing community
  - Gauge interest from the fishery to determine number of potential participants

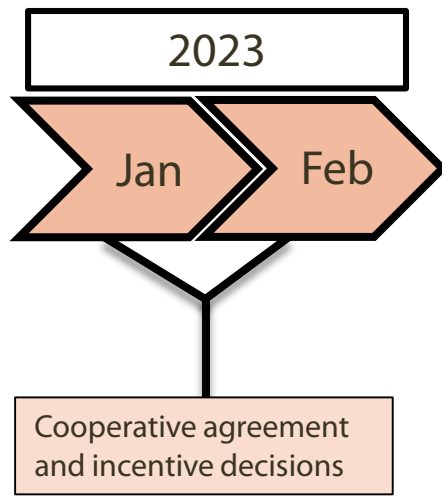


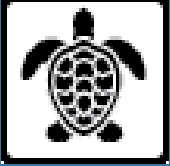


# RW AIS Project Timeline (short term)

## January and February

- Establish cooperative agreement/contract with partner (potentially GSMFC)
- Continue outreach to fisherman
- Determine incentive options and preferences for installation

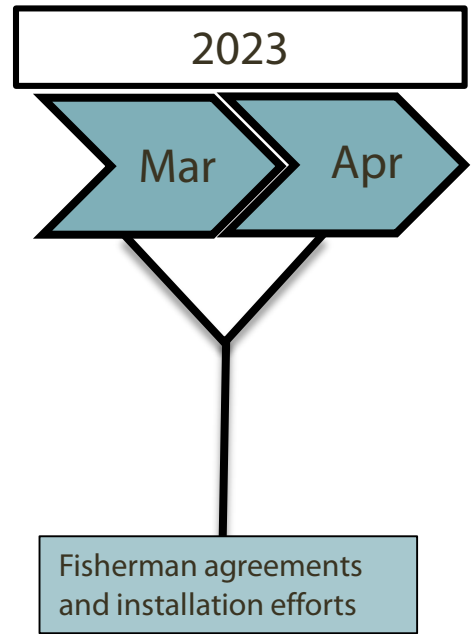


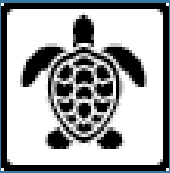


# RW AIS Project Timeline (short term)

## ● March and April

- Contractor will establish agreements with fisherman
- Contractor begin to purchase equipment and provide installation and/or reimbursement

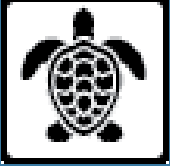




## Potential role of the Commission

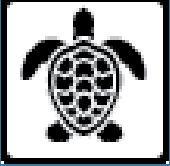
- ◉ We would like to partner with the commission on the following components of this project:
  - **Outreach to State Agencies and Industry** – Work with NOAA to develop a Fact Sheet and other materials to communicate the project goals. The Commission and potential partners would distribute these educational materials to the targeted fisheries in the Gulf States.
  - **Purchase and Installation of Equipment**
  - **Distribution of Incentives** – including helping us determine appropriate incentives





## Potential role of the Commission

- Our project team would like to open discussions with Commission members on the interest and availability to partner with NOAA for these project components
- We are open and interested in ideas to most effectively and efficiently carry out these project components and garner interest among shrimpers



Thank you!  
&  
Questions?