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# Shrimp cELB interim data collection process – SD card returns

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## (Another) Brief review of issue

1. cELB units ceased **transmitting** information to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) in December 2020. (but still collecting data)
2. Until a new data collection program is implemented NMFS will continue to use the cELB units. Data will be manually obtained on SD cards returned by the shrimpers.
3. Provide instructions for fishermen to remove old SD and install new SD card. Send new card, with return address mailer for the old card to go to Galveston Lab.
4. GSMFC set up table on their Oracle server to load data from SD cards and developed scanning process to isolate virus infected cards.
5. Based on cards returned, NMFS has adjusted outreach procedures

First mailing May 2021

Second mailing January 2022

Third mailing June 2022

Fourth mailing January 2023

Fifth mailing June 2023

Sixth mailing January 2024

Seventh mailing June 2024

Eighth(!) mailing January 2025



# Summary of outreach to date

- Improving outreach
  - Sought help from Gulf Shrimp Council AP
  - Sought help from Gulf Outreach team
  - Improved information on internet / fact sheet
  - Quarterly mailed reminder postcards
  - Mailed letter by certified mail emphasizing compliance responsibilities
  - “Boots on the ground” approach funded by Southern Shrimp Alliance in 2023
  - Open to other suggestions
- Stop-gap, temporary workaround has been ongoing for 4+ years

# SD card returns

	Date	Number sent	Number returned	“Percent returned” **
Mailing 1	June 2021	493	314	64%
Mailing 2	January 2022	456	265	58%
Mailing 3	June 2022	448	306	68%
Mailing 4	January 2023	423	322	76%
Mailing 5	June 2023	277	237	86%
Mailing 6	January 2024	406	243	60%
Mailing 7	June 2024	384	285	74%
Mailing 8	January 2025	392	_____	_____
<b>Overall</b>	<b>(through Mailing 7)</b>	<b>2887</b>	<b>1972</b>	<b>68%</b>

\*\* Percent returned is based on the time period

# SD card returns – device data quality

Year	Percentage of devices where > 20% of pings are “bad”	Number returned blank
2021	44%	14
2022	46%	81
2023	52%	166
2024	50%	138

## Metric we have been using:

Number/Percentage of devices where more than 20% of the pings have a bad (future) date or bad (NULL or 999) GPS location

Many returned cards are blank

## Additional information

1. We greatly appreciate the goodwill and patience of GSMFC but we realize it is limited.
2. Intensive “boots on the ground” efforts did improve returns, but number of vessels reporting is still well below the original sample size.
3. Data quality remains an issue as much of the data returned is not usable.
4. Many cELB units are failing and we don’t have the resources/ability to program new devices.
5. We’ll keep sending reminders and are open to other outreach efforts.
6. This is a STOP-GAP process. It was not designed to be a permanent solution.