



# BETTER BYCATCH REDUCTION DEVICES

## A Gulf of Mexico Restoration Project

### BRD vs. BRD Testing Application

Lynker, on behalf of the Better Bycatch Reduction Device (BRD) Project Team, invites federally permitted Gulf of Mexico shrimpers to take part in the Better Bycatch Reduction Devices (BBRDs) Project Industry testing. The Better BRD Project Team, composed of Louisiana and Texas Sea Grant in partnership with NOAA, is working to improve bycatch reduction by identifying and increasing the use of more efficient BRDs for the federal Gulf of Mexico shrimp trawl fishery.

#### THE PROJECT

Several new BRDs are being considered for use in the Gulf of Mexico shrimp trawl fishery. (For further details on project status and goals visit <https://www.laseagrant.org/outreach/projects/better-brds/>) The Better BRD Project Team is seeking shrimpers interested in trying out these new BRDs and allowing a researcher aboard their vessel to collect detailed information on their use. Participating shrimpers will be asked to install one experimental BRD in one outside trawl net and one control BRD net (using the current certified fisheye BRD at 9 ft. for comparison) and proceed with normal shrimping operations. Every other day, the crew will be asked to swap the control and experimental net sides. The university researcher will collect data during each tow (such as start/end times and gps) and record a sample from each net (experimental and control nets) after each tow to evaluate bycatch reduction and shrimp retention. You may be asked to stay in high bycatch to aid data collection efforts.

The purpose of BRD vs. BRD testing is to gather scientific data on bycatch reduction and shrimp retention of new BRD devices and compare these new BRDs with the current federally certified Gulf of Mexico BRDs. The activities to be performed when testing the devices will be made clear and explained before signing any contracts. Please Note: This is not NOAA Fisheries BRD certification testing. No naked nets will be used in this industry testing. All the information you provide about the BRD(s) you test will be greatly appreciated and will be used by the Better BRD Project Team. Shrimpers selected to take part in industry testing and who perform required activities for the BRD vs. BRD testing phase will receive monetary payment for their work.

This is an ongoing restoration effort approved by the Deepwater Horizon Open Ocean Trustee Implementation Group, to compensate for natural resource injuries from the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. For more information on this, please visit <https://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/>.



## HOW TO APPLY

If you are interested in a hands-on role in this project, please fill out and submit the application. Requested information verifies vessel and permit status and helps ensure full Gulf of Mexico coverage by fishery for better understanding of BRD effectiveness in varied fishing conditions. Participation in this project is completely voluntary. All application information is **confidential** and housed at Lynker. Relevant fishing information will be shared with members of Texas and Louisiana Sea Grant to aid with vessel selection for optimal testing coverage. Your application will be reviewed by Lynker for completeness. If you have any questions or comments about the application, please direct them to Joe Shields at [jshields@lynker.com](mailto:jshields@lynker.com).

Completed applications will be reviewed by Lynker and Sea Grant with licenses checked by NOAA to be added to the required permits under Sea Grant. Participants will be selected to allow for testing of new BRDs in varied conditions such as different species and at multiple trawling locations in the Gulf of Mexico.



# BBRDS PROJECT PARTICIPATION APPLICATION

## SECTION 1: CONTACT AND VESSEL INFORMATION

PLEASE SUPPLY CURRENT CONTACT INFORMATION

### Name of Vessel Owner/Corporation

Last	First	Middle

### Mailing Address of Vessel Owner/Corporation

Street	City	State	Zip

### Point of Contact for Vessel Owner/Corporation

Business Phone Number	Alternative Phone Number (optional)	Email Address (optional)

### Vessel Captain (if different than vessel owner)

Last	First	Business Phone Number



### Vessel Information

Vessel USCG documentation	Federal shrimp permit number	Vessel Name	When does your federal shrimp permit expire? (MM/DD/YYYY)
When does your vessel safety sticker (decal) expire? (MM/DD/YYYY)	Is your vessel safety sticker (decal) properly displayed on your vessel?	If you do not currently have a safety decal, would you be willing to display a safety decal aboard your shrimp vessel during this project?	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> I already have a safety decal displayed on my vessel	
What is your current hailing port?	What is the length of your vessel?	Where is your vessel currently docked (point of origin)?	
What type of vessel do you have? (Type and year)	What type of engine(s) does your vessel have?	What is the horsepower of the engine(s)?	



## SECTION 2: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

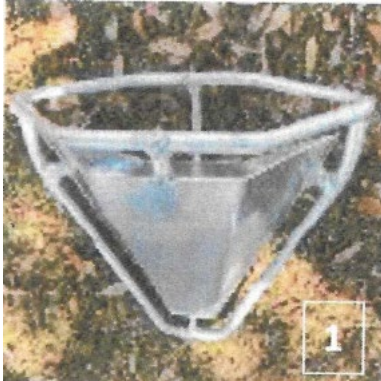
Have you been involved in earlier BRD or TED testing projects?	Are you willing to house a university researcher aboard your vessel during this testing phase?
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
What is your main geographic fishing location? If this varies by season, check all that apply.	
<input type="checkbox"/> South Texas <input type="checkbox"/> Florida <input type="checkbox"/> East of the Mississippi to Florida <input type="checkbox"/> West of the Mississippi to Galveston	
If you selected multiple geographic fishing locations or if this varies by season, please explain.	What typical depth range do you fish (In fathoms)?
What is the average duration of your trip?	Is your TED over 40 inches?
Of the shrimp fisheries presented below, select those you participate in:	Are you currently using otter trawls (standard shrimp trawls as opposed to skimmer trawls)?
<input type="checkbox"/> Pink Shrimp <input type="checkbox"/> Brown Shrimp <input type="checkbox"/> White Shrimp	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure
Are your Turtle Excluder Device(s) (TEDs) top or bottom openings? If this varies by seasons or areas, please specify:	Do you use a quad rig (four nets) on your vessel?
<input type="checkbox"/> Top <input type="checkbox"/> Bottom <input type="checkbox"/> Both (seasonal changes, please explain): _____ _____ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No



Can you or your vessel crew change out devices during a trip?	Can you or your vessel crew install and remove devices from your gear?
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Below are descriptions and pictures of each of the BRDs we would like tested:

**Tom's Fisheye:** Metal fisheye design with solid sides for buoyancy that produces an escape area in the net to allow fish to swim out. Similar placement to traditional fisheye (9-10ft from tie offs) Established design created in Australia.



Tom's Fisheye

**Large Mesh Sections (LMS):** Areas in the codend (about 4-7.5 feet from tie off rings) that are composed of 3-inch or larger mesh, well above average codend dimensions. The LMS provides openings that allow fish to escape. Typically used with chafing gear that has a greater mesh size than LMS.



Large Mesh Sections (LMS)



**Chauvin TED (Flapless TED):** This features a 3-inch PVC pipe that is wrapped in webbing – commonly referred to as a sock. This is sewn above the TED opening and the TED flaps are removed. This is an approved TED design- this project will now test its bycatch reduction capabilities.



Chauvin TED (Flapless TED)

**Drury TED (Flapless TED):** This is a flapless TED design with a smaller diameter PVC pipe or broomstick than the Chauvin TED sewn directly into the net above the opening of the TED (no sock).



Drury TED (Flapless TED)

Are you willing to try out (test) multiple gears?

Yes  No

### SECTION 3: TERMS

To be eligible for consideration to participate in the BBRD project, all licenses/requirements for your vessel must be up to date. This includes your US Coast Guard vessel documentation number, US Coast Guard safety inspection sticker, and federal shrimp permit.

**AND**

If you are selected to participate in this project, you will be asked to provide a copy of your W-9 and Direct Deposit/ACH information (required to receive federal funds for your completed work).



## SECTION 4: APPLICANT UNDERSTANDING AND CERTIFICATION

I understand that:

- By submitting this application and if selected for participation, I will enter into a Professional Services Agreement with Lynker. Failure to sign the Professional Services Agreement will prevent participation in this project and may negatively affect participation in future projects.
- I bear the sole responsibility to ensure the completed application is received by Lynker. If Lynker does not receive this application, I will be ineligible for participation in the Better Bycatch Reduction Devices project.
- The information provided in this application will be collected for the sole purpose of this project and none of my information will be shared publicly.
- If I am selected, all permits/agreements for the Better Bycatch Reduction Devices project must remain with my vessel and cannot be traded or transferred to another shrimping vessel.

Signature of Vessel Owner (or Authorized Representative): \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_





## FORM SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Persons interested in this project must mail this completed application form to Lynker. The form may be delivered via U.S. mail or by an express mail service. The applicant bears the sole responsibility of ensuring the application arrives at Lynker and bears any risk associated with the delivery method chosen. Lynker is not responsible for mail or deliveries that are lost or misdirected.

### Mail To:

Lynker  
338 East Market St., Suite 100  
Leesburg, VA 20176

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Do you need help completing your application or have questions about testing the BRDs or compensation for the project? Please contact either of the project liaisons at the following:

Louisiana Sea Grant  
Tiffany Pasco  
Phone: (859) 321-2492  
Email: [tpasco1@lsu.edu](mailto:tpasco1@lsu.edu)

Lynker  
Joe Shields  
Phone: (850) 323-2044  
Email: [jshields@lynker.com](mailto:jshields@lynker.com)

The designated liaisons from Sea Grant and Lynker are dedicated to helping you with project questions and form completion. Additional information may be found at <https://www.laseagrants.org/outreach/projects/better-brds/>