

Reg. 5/2006

**FISHERIES (TURTLE EXCLUDER DEVICE)
REGULATIONS**
made under section 79

Citation.

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Fisheries (Turtle Excluder Device) Regulations.

Interpretation.

2. In these Regulations –

(a) “trawl net” means a net consisting of a cone-shaped body, closed by bag or cod end and extended at the opening by the wings and which can be towed by one or two fishing boats and used for fishing;

(b) “turtle excluder device” means any device that fits into the back end of a trawl net just before the bag or cod end and permits organisms such as shrimps and certain sizes of fishes to pass into the bag or cod end, while blocking larger organisms such as turtles from entering the bag or cod end, and simultaneously providing turtles but not shrimps and fishes with means of escape from the net.

Requirements for the protection of sea turtles.

3. (1) With effect from the Commencement of these Regulations, the master, owner, or charterer of a fishing boat shall not fish in the fishery zone or territorial sea, using a trawl net for fishing unless he has installed on such net a turtle excluder device with specifications as in the Schedule, which he shall not remove while fishing and shall have at least one spare turtle excluder device on board his fishing boat.

Schedule.

(2) Every master, owner or charterer shall return to the water any live sea turtle caught accidentally while fishing and apply, where necessary, the resuscitation procedure established by the Ministry of Agriculture.

[Subsidiary]

Fisheries (Turtle Excluder Device) Regulations

Revocation.

4. The Maritime Boundaries (Turtle Excluder Device) Order 1994 is revoked.

cl. 3(1)

SCHEDULE

The Turtle Excluder Device shall not be less than 32 inches in length and 32 inches in width and shall consist of the following specifications.

(a) **71 Inches Opening (Single Flap):**

Step 1 The leading edge cut measurement shall not be less than 71 inches when stretched.

Step 2 The side cut measurement shall not be less than 26 inches when stretched.

Step 3 The side attachment shall not be more than 6 inches beyond grid.

Step 4 The flap length shall not be more than 24 inches beyond grid.

Step 5 The escape opening measurement shall not be less than 71 inches when stretched.

(b) **Double Cover Opening:**

Step 1 The leading edge cut measurement shall not be less than 56 inches when stretched.

Step 2 The side cut measurement shall not be less

than 20 inches when stretched.

Step 3 The over-lap section shall not be less than 15 inches when stretched.

Step 4 The flap length shall not be more than 24 inches beyond grid.

- (c) The angle of the turtle excluder device shall be 45 degrees to 55 degrees within the trawl net.
 - (d) The steel bars shall be placed 4 inches apart.
 - (e) The floatation device shall be balanced.
 - (f) Each trawl net, including spare nets, on every fishing boat shall be affixed with a turtle excluder device.
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