

Turtle excluder device

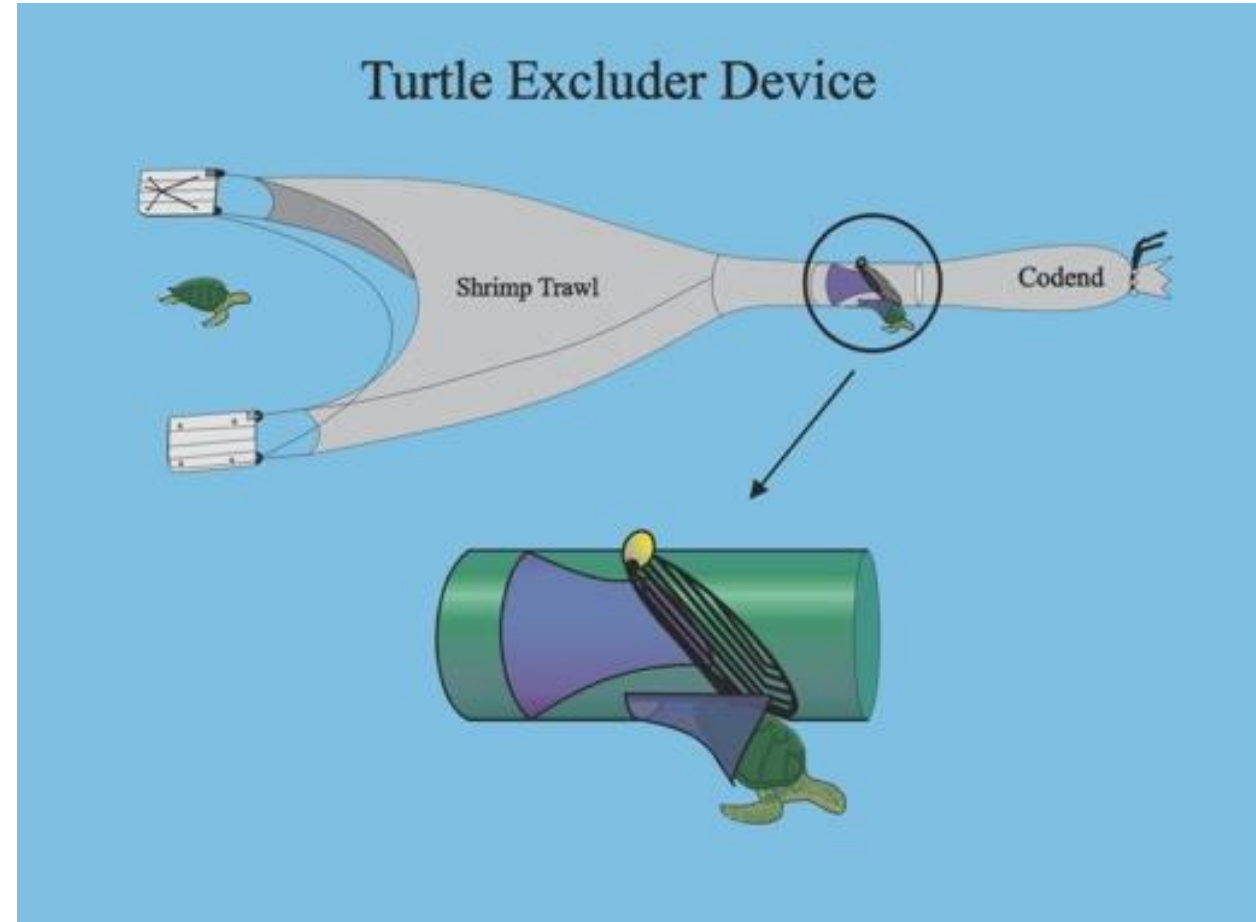
Dr. Rupesh B. Yadav

Asst. Prof.

TCSC, Mumbai.

What is TED?

- A turtle excluder device (**TED**) is a specialized device that allows a captured sea turtle to escape when caught in a fisherman's net.



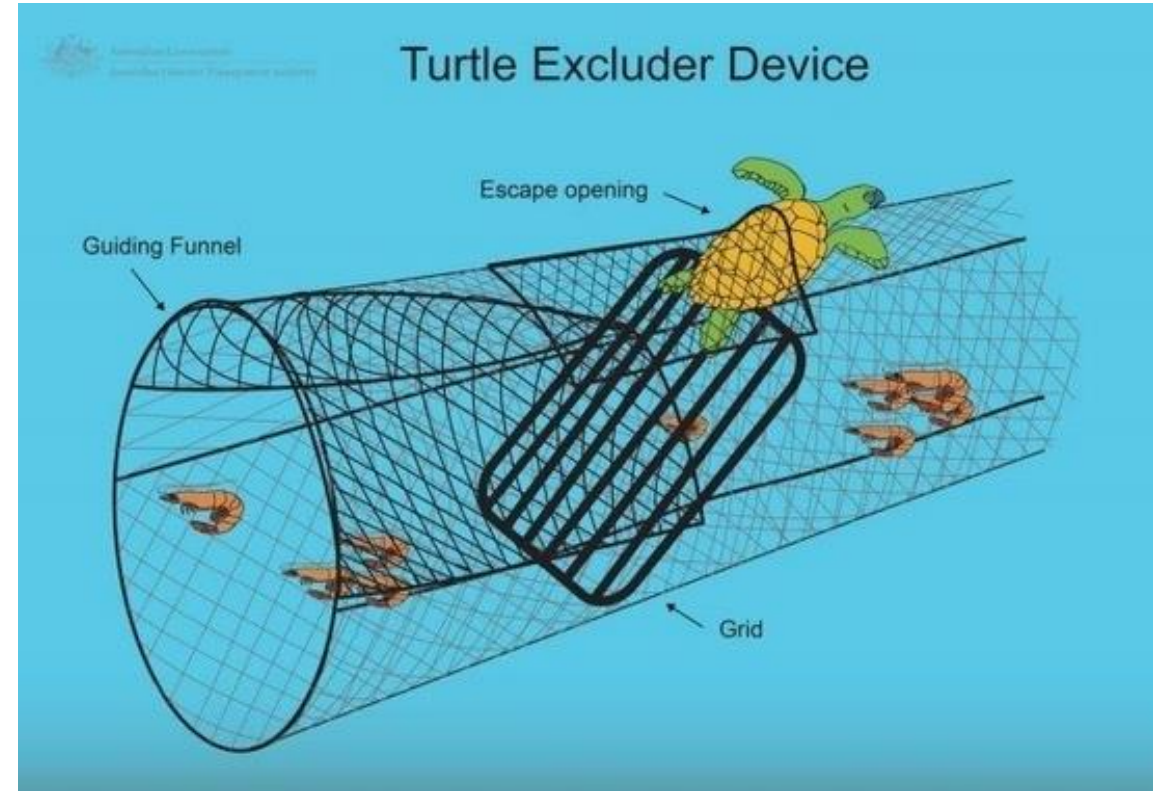
Turtle Excluder Device

- In an effort to support sea turtle conservation, NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) Fisheries published a final rule to require all skimmer trawl vessels 40 feet and greater in length to use turtle excluder devices (TEDs) in their nets.
- A TED is a device that allows sea turtles to escape from trawl nets.
- The purpose of the rule is to aid in the protection and recovery of red listed sea turtle populations by reducing incidental bycatch and mortality of sea turtles.



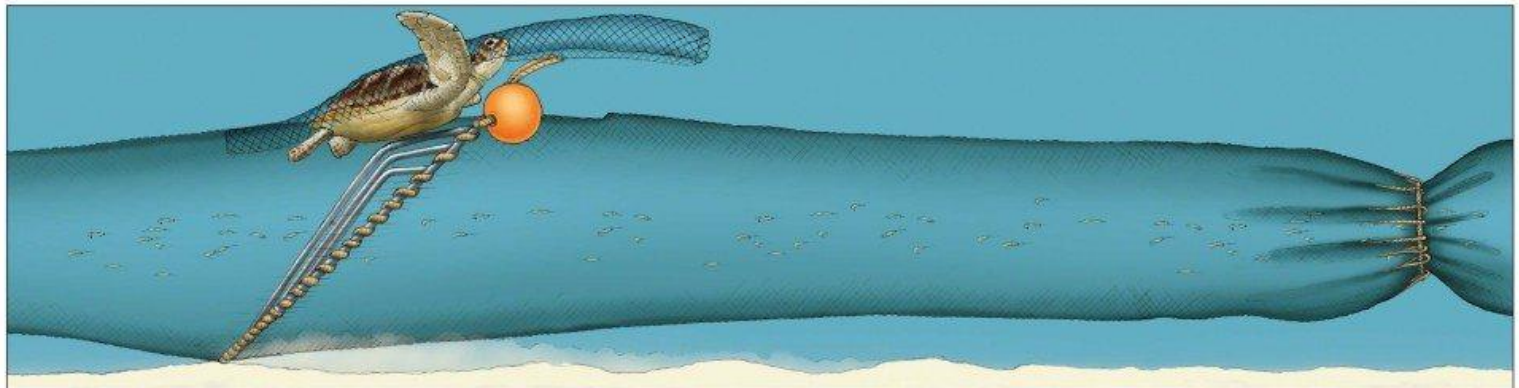
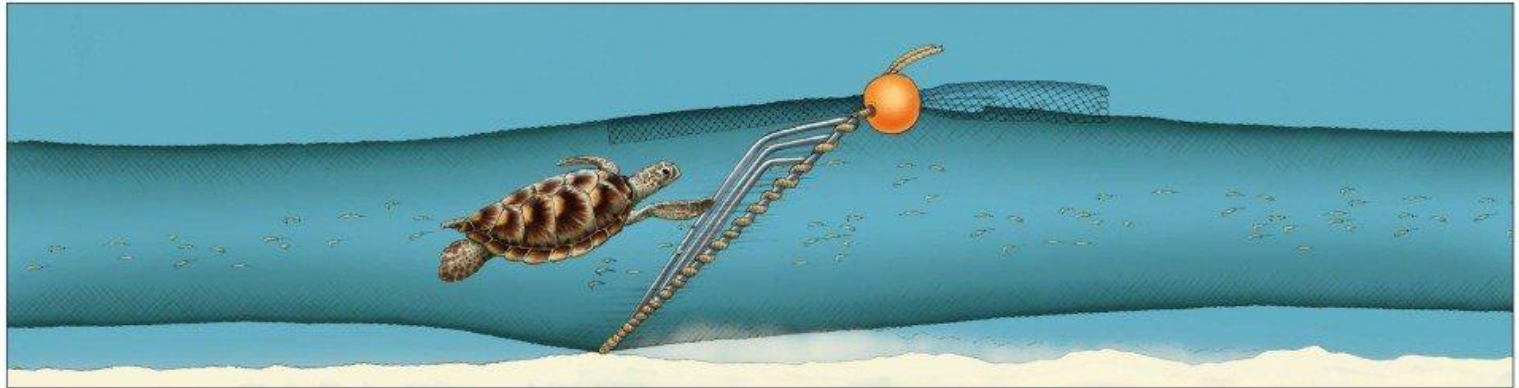
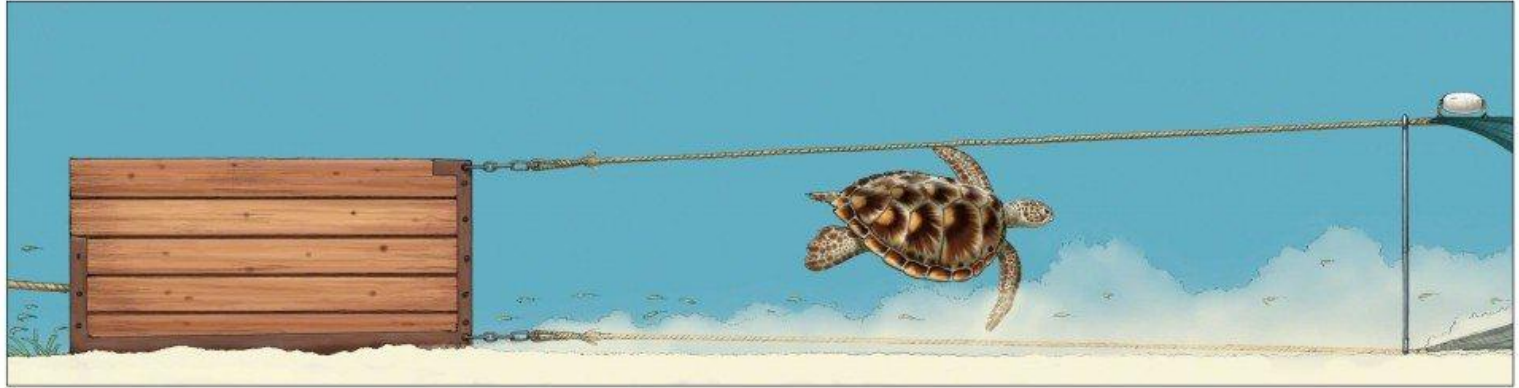
Turtle Excluder Device

- A TED is usually an oval frame with vertical bars set at precise spacing that allows shrimp and fish to pass through to the cod end, at the back of the net, while turtles and other large objects are forced out through an opening covered by a net flap.
- TEDs improve the quality of the catch, as large objects such as woods do not crush it, and the reduction of debris in the back of the net saves fuel, which is a benefit to fishers.



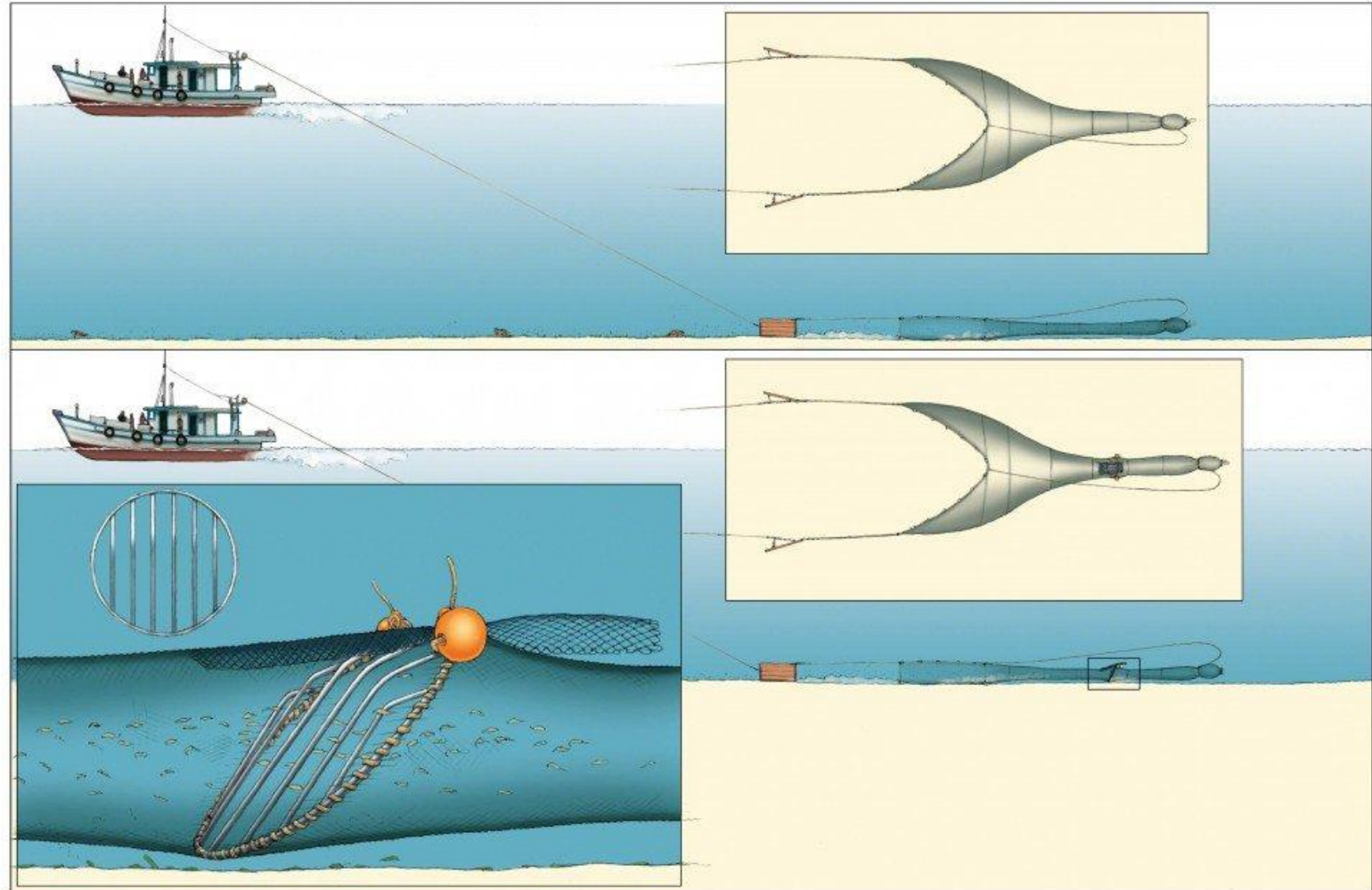
TED

- Skimmer trawl vessels 40 feet and greater in length assembled for fishing will be required to install and use TEDs designed to exclude small turtles in their nets.
- Specifically, the space between the deflector bars of the new TEDs must not exceed 3 inches; escape openings must be oriented at the top of the net; and there are potential webbing restrictions on the escape opening flap depending on the type of TED grid and escape opening configuration.



Turtle Excluder Device

- For purposes of this rule, vessel length is based on state fishery license or vessel registration information required to be onboard the vessel while fishing.
- NOAA Fisheries originally published a proposed rule in December 2016 that would have required all skimmer trawl, pusher-head trawl, and wing net vessels to use TEDs in their nets. In response to public comment and further discussion, final rule was revised.



Turtle Excluder Device

- In 1996, the government of India proposed legislation for the requirement of modified "indigenous" TEDs, which they called TSDs (turtle saving devices), to be used by local fishermen.
- This was a response to the declining olive ridley population that were nesting in beaches such as in Odisha.
- The modified TSDs were similar to standard TEDs except for having fewer bars.



Thank
You

