

Nearshore Cetacean & Sea Turtle Prey Item Sampling Plan: Addendum To Update Target Species List

**NEARSHORE CETACEAN & SEA TURTLE PREY ITEM SAMPLING PLAN: ADDENDUM TO UPDATE
TARGET SPECIES LIST**

Marine Mammals and Sea Turtles Working Group of the
Mississippi Canyon 252 Trustees

March 21, 2012

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Approval of this Addendum is for the purposes of obtaining data for the Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA). Each party reserves its rights to produce its own independent interpretations and analyses of any data collected pursuant to this Addendum and the associated Nearshore Cetacean & Sea Turtle Prey Item Sampling Plan.

The trustees have developed a preliminary conceptual model of the DWH release, potential pathways and routes of exposure, and potential receptors. This preliminary model has informed the trustees' decision to pursue the studies outlined in this Addendum. By signing this Addendum and agreeing to fund the work outlined, BP is not endorsing the model articulated in the Addendum.

This Addendum will be implemented consistent with existing trustee regulations and policies. All applicable state and federal permits will be obtained prior to conducting work.

APPROVED:

Jessica White For Lisa Di Pinto 3/22/2012
NOAA Trustee Representative: Date

[Signature] 3/30/2012
Louisiana Trustee Representative: Date
FOX KOLAND GUILDY

[Signature] 3-30-2012
BP Representative: Date

SUMMARY

This Addendum supplements the list of prey species targeted for collection pursuant to the Nearshore Cetacean and Sea Turtle Prey Item Sampling Plan (“Prey Item Sampling Plan”). The prey species originally targeted for collection in the Prey Item Sampling Plan are identified in Table 1 (below). This Addendum expands the original target list in order to increase and diversify the pool of prey samples available for collection. These additions to the prey list appear at the end of this Addendum.

APPROACH AND RATIONALE

Several target species of prey items listed in the Prey Item Sampling Plan were not encountered during sampling events as of January 21, 2012. However, other potential prey items were encountered that were not listed for collection under the Plan. Turtle and cetacean biologists have examined the lists of species encountered during those sampling events and have provided information on additional species, not originally listed in the Prey Item Sampling Plan, that would potentially be alternative prey items of nearshore cetaceans and sea turtles in the absence of the species originally listed .

Table 1 identifies the prey species for nearshore cetaceans and sea turtles that were targeted for collection by the Prey Item Sampling Plan. The species not encountered during sampling events as of January 21, 2012 are highlighted in yellow. Table 2 identifies other potential prey items for nearshore cetaceans and sea turtles that were not in Table 1, but were nevertheless encountered. Species which were caught, but which were not listed in Table 1 as targets for collection in the Prey Item Sampling Plan, were accordingly returned to the environment.

Table 1: Typical prey items for bottlenose dolphins, Kemp’s, and loggerhead sea turtles (Barros & Odell, 1990; Bjorndal, 1996; Barros & Wells, 1998; Maze-Foley & Mullin 2006; etc.). Species not encountered as of January 21, 2012 are highlighted in yellow.

Dolphin Prey		Sea Turtle Prey	
Common name	Scientific name	Common name	Scientific name
Atlantic croaker	<i>Micropogonias undulatus</i>	blue crab	<i>Callinectes sapidus</i>
bay anchovy	<i>Anchoa mitchilli</i>	lesser blue crab	<i>Callinectes similus</i>
Gulf menhaden	<i>Brevoortia patronus</i>	speckled swimming crab	<i>Arenaeus cribrarius</i>
pinfish	<i>Lagodon rhomboides</i>	iridescent swimming crab	<i>Portunus gibbesii</i>
spot	<i>Leiostomus xanthurus</i>	Florida lady crab	<i>Ovalipes floridanus</i>
striped mullet	<i>Mugil cephalus</i>	calico box crab	<i>Hepatus epheliticus</i>
brown shrimp	<i>Farfantepenaeus aztecus</i>	flame box crab	<i>Calappa flammea</i>
pink shrimp	<i>Farfantepenaeus duorarum</i>	yellow box crab	<i>Calappa sulcata</i>
white shrimp	<i>Litopenaeus setiferus</i>	mottled purse crab	<i>Persephona mediterranea</i>
Atlantic brief squid	<i>Lolliguncula brevis</i>	portly spider crab	<i>Libinia emarginata</i>
Gulf toadfish	<i>Opsanus beta</i>	incongruous ark	<i>Anadara brasilliana</i>
hardhead catfish	<i>Ariopsis felis</i>	blood ark	<i>Anadara ovalis</i>
sand seatrout	<i>Cynoscion arenarius</i>	Atlantic cutlassfish	<i>Trichiurus lepturus</i>

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silver seatrout	<i>Cynoscion nothus</i>	horseshoe crab	<i>Limulus polyphemus</i>
spotted seatrout	<i>Cynoscion nebulosus</i>		
striped anchovy	<i>Anchoa hepsetus</i>		
black drum	<i>Pogonias cromis</i>		
gafftopsail catfish	<i>Bagre marinus</i>		
red drum	<i>Sciaenops ocellatus</i>		
southern flounder	<i>Paralichthys lethostigma</i>		

Table 2: Species caught and not retained (because not identified in the Prey Item Sampling Plan) as of January 21, 2012

COMMON NAME	NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS CAUGHT AND NOT RETAINED
Spanish mackerel	4
harvestfish	2
southern kingfish	7
ladyfish	2
least rockshrimp	3
blackcheek tonguefish	14
Gulf butterfish	54
baywhiff flounder	25
spotted hake	1
fringed flounder	14
hogchoaker	2
Atlantic bumper	12
hermit crab	1
searobin	4
lizardfish	2
banded drum	19
sheepshead	1
skilletfish	1
least puffer	31
longtail tonguefish	1
Atlantic stingray	3
violet goby	1
lookdown	1
Atlantic moonfish	4
jellyfish	524
star drum	31

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whiting	5
unidentified flatfish	1
highfin goby	3
seabob shrimp	66
mantis shrimp	5
snails	3
goby	1
silver perch	2
faded roughneck shrimp	20
bluntnose jack	1
shoal flounder	2

For Nearshore Cetaceans

Biologists reviewed Tables 1 and 2, in addition to a list of bottlenose dolphin prey from the central and western Gulf (Barros and Odell 1990) which was one of the sources used to formulate the original target species list in the work plan. Based on these sources, the following taxa or species are being added to the Table 1 list as target species/taxa for collection:

- Kingfish
- Banded drum
- Star drum
- Spotted hake
- Lizardfish
- Silver perch
- Butterfish
- Tonguefish
- Flounder

For Sea Turtles

Based on (i) the work that has been done to date looking at the gut contents of more than 100 Kemp's ridley sea turtles (Shaver 1991), (ii) the information in Tables 1 and 2, and (iii) knowledge of the literature and information provided by biologists, the following taxa or species are being added to the Table 1 list as target species/taxa for collection:

- All crabs
- All shrimps
- All mantis shrimps
- All snails
- All bivalves

All species will be identified to the lowest taxon possible and an inventory of the species collected will be provided to The Trustees and BP/Cardno/Entrix within three weeks of the completion of field work.

Table 3: Updated list of target prey items for bottlenose dolphins, Kemp’s, and loggerhead sea turtles

Dolphin Prey	Sea Turtle Prey
Common name	
Atlantic croaker	blue crab
bay anchovy	lesser blue crab
Gulf menhaden	speckled swimming crab
pinfish	iridescent swimming crab
spot	Florida lady crab
striped mullet	calico box crab
brown shrimp	flame box crab
pink shrimp	yellow box crab
white shrimp	mottled purse crab
Atlantic brief squid	portly spider crab
Gulf toadfish	incongruous ark
hardhead catfish	blood ark
sand seatrout	Atlantic cutlassfish
silver seatrout	horseshoe crab
spotted seatrout	
striped anchovy	
black drum	
gafftopsail catfish	
red drum	
southern flounder	
Additions	
kingfish	all crabs
banded drum	all shrimps
star drum	all mantis shrimps
spotted hake	all snails
lizardfish	all bivalves
silver perch	
butterfish	
tonguefish	
flounder	

BUDGET

All parties agree to the changes to Table 1 reflected in Table 3 of this Addendum. This Addendum makes no other amendments to the Prey Item Sampling Plan. This is a cost neutral revision, and no budget changes accompany this Addendum or the proposed associated analyses described in the draft Nearshore Cetacean and Sea Turtle Prey Analytical Plan.