



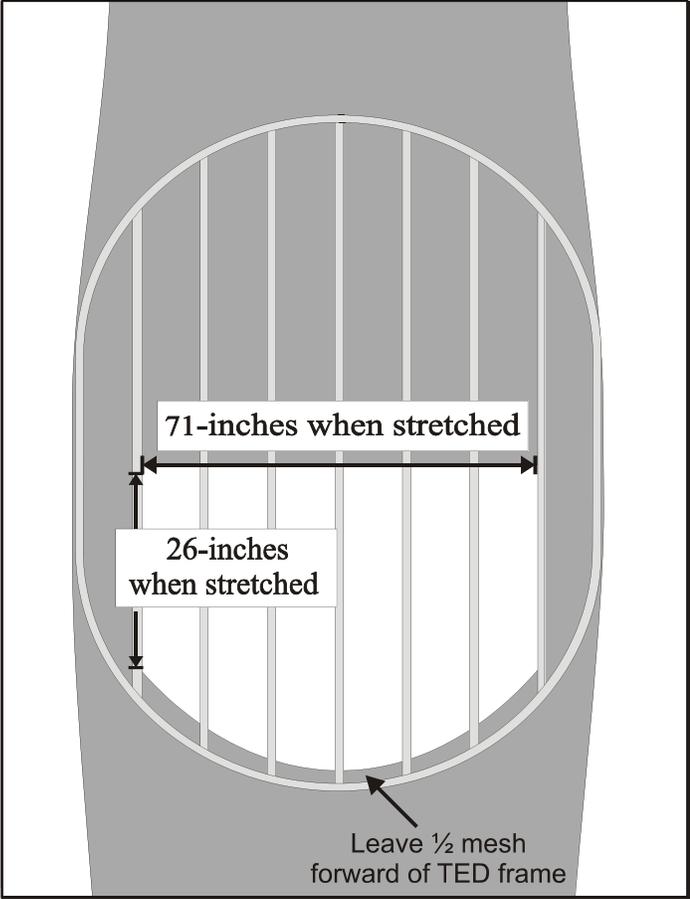
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**Instructions for the 71-inch Offshore
Turtle Escape Opening
for Single-Grid Hard TEDs**

This document provides instructions for modifying or constructing a 71-inch escape opening dimensions for a single-grid hard TED for use in all waters. **All measurements are given in inches and apply to stretched mesh.** The actual regulatory requirements are based on inches, not mesh size. These instructions include approximate mesh counts only to provide a general indication of the size of the required openings. The number of meshes required will differ depending on the mesh size of each net. These instructions summarize regulations at 50 C.F.R. 223.207 (a)(7)(ii)(B), 223.207(d)(2)(ii), and 223.207(d)(3)(ii). It is the responsibility of the owners and vessel operators using these instructions to insure that their TEDs meet all regulatory requirements.

1. Cutting the Exit Hole

Cut an exit hole in the extension ahead of the TED frame 26 inches deep on each side, by 71 inches across the leading edge. (Figure 1) Note These measurements are stretched mesh measurements. When making the cut, 1/2 mesh forward of the TED frame. If the trawl webbing is 1½" mesh, the cut will be approximately 18 meshes long by 52 meshes wide. If the trawl webbing is 1⅝", the cut will be approximately 16 meshes long by 48 meshes wide.



2. Constructing and Installing the Exit Hole Cover (Flap).

The exit hole cover is made by cutting a 133-inch by 58-inch piece of webbing no larger than 1⁵/₈-inch stretch mesh (Figure 2). The 133-inch edge of the cover is attached to the forward edge of the opening (71-inch edge).

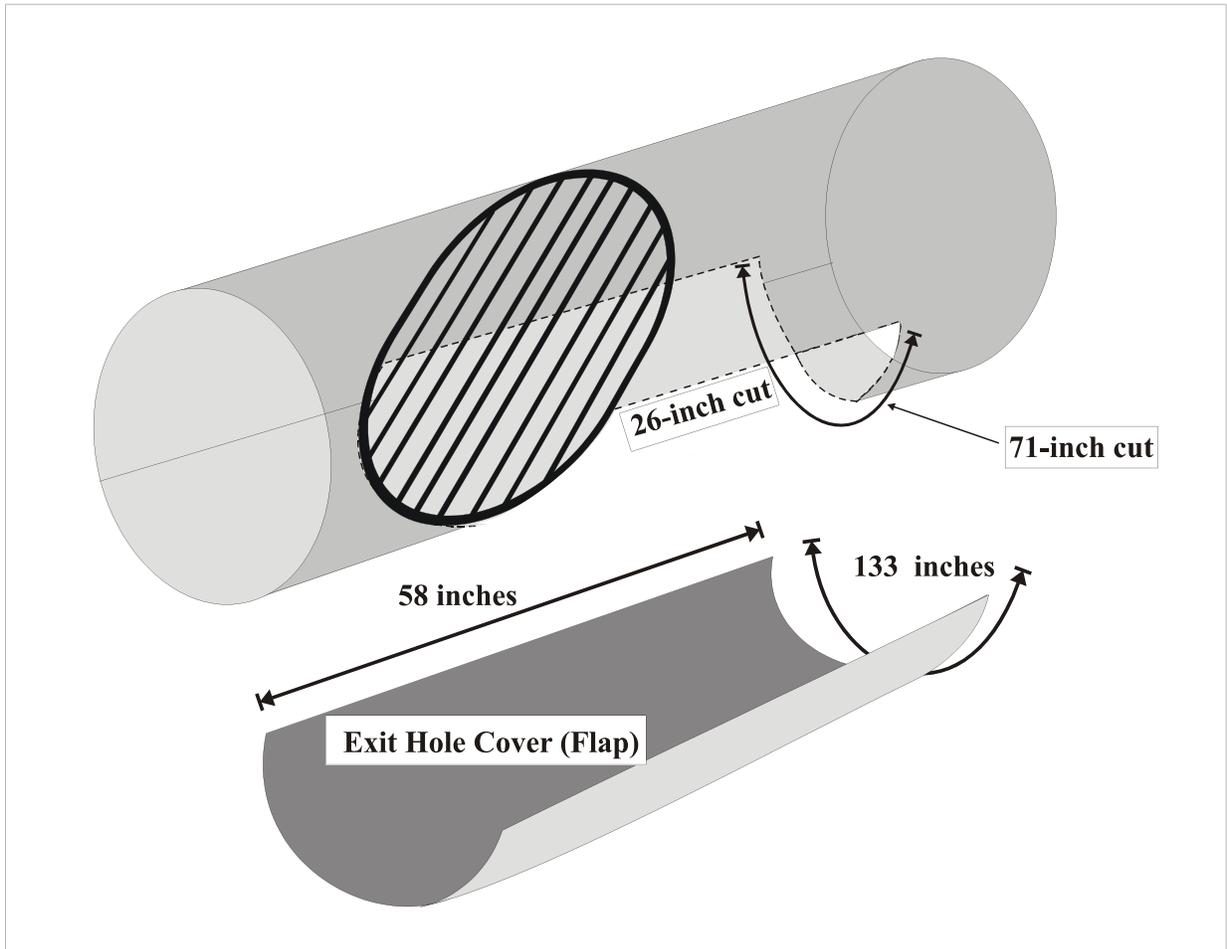


Figure 2 71-inch TED opening: Installation of exit hole cover.

Exit Hole Cover (continued)

The cover may overlap the exit hole by a maximum of 5 inches (about 3 meshes) on each side (Figure 3). Attach the side of the flap to the side of the exit hole cut while maintaining the 3-mesh overlap. Attach 28-inches of the cover to 26-inches of the exit hole cut ahead of the TED frame. Following the same row of meshes as the 3-mesh overlap continue sewing down the extension beyond the TED frame to the row of meshes that lies 6-inches beyond the posterior edge of the grid. The cover may extend no more than 24 inches beyond the posterior edge of the TED frame.

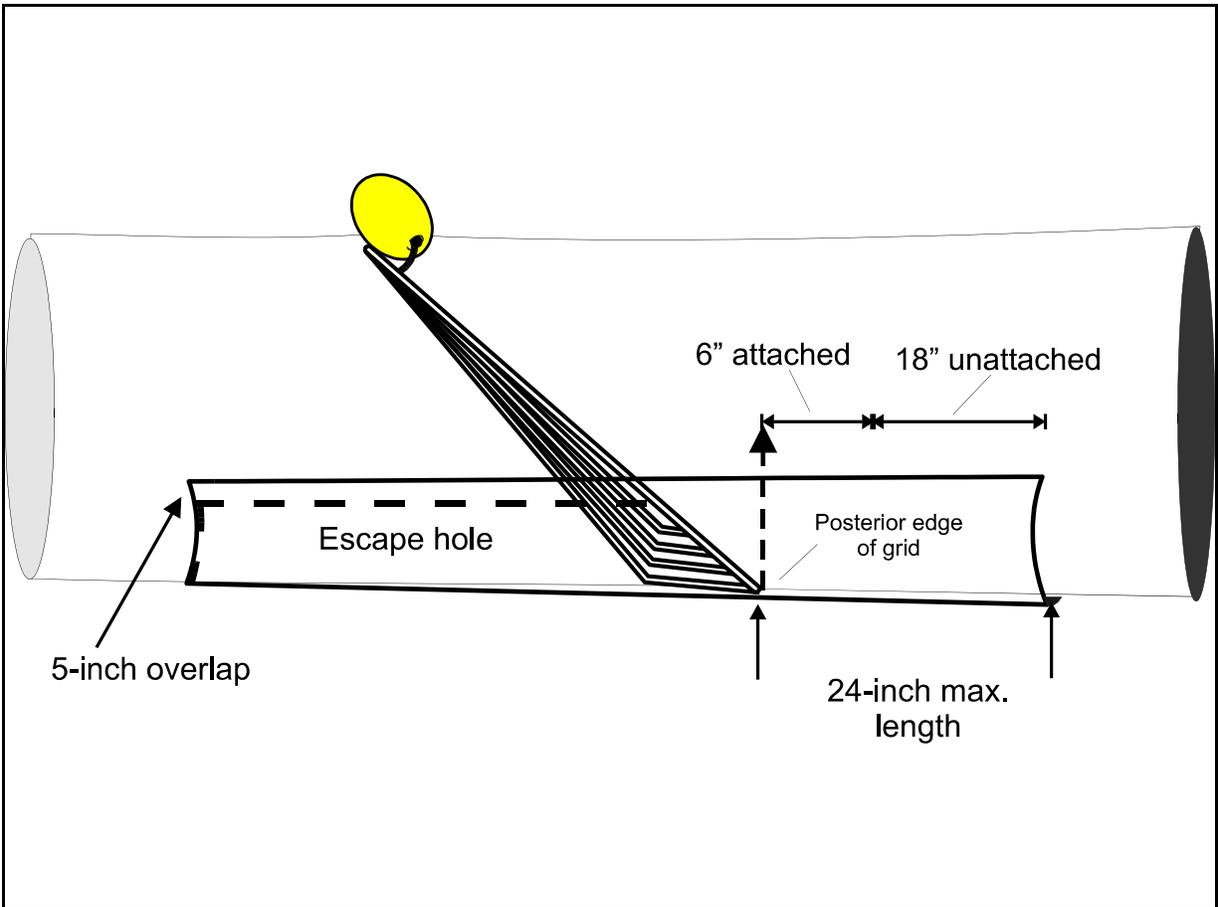
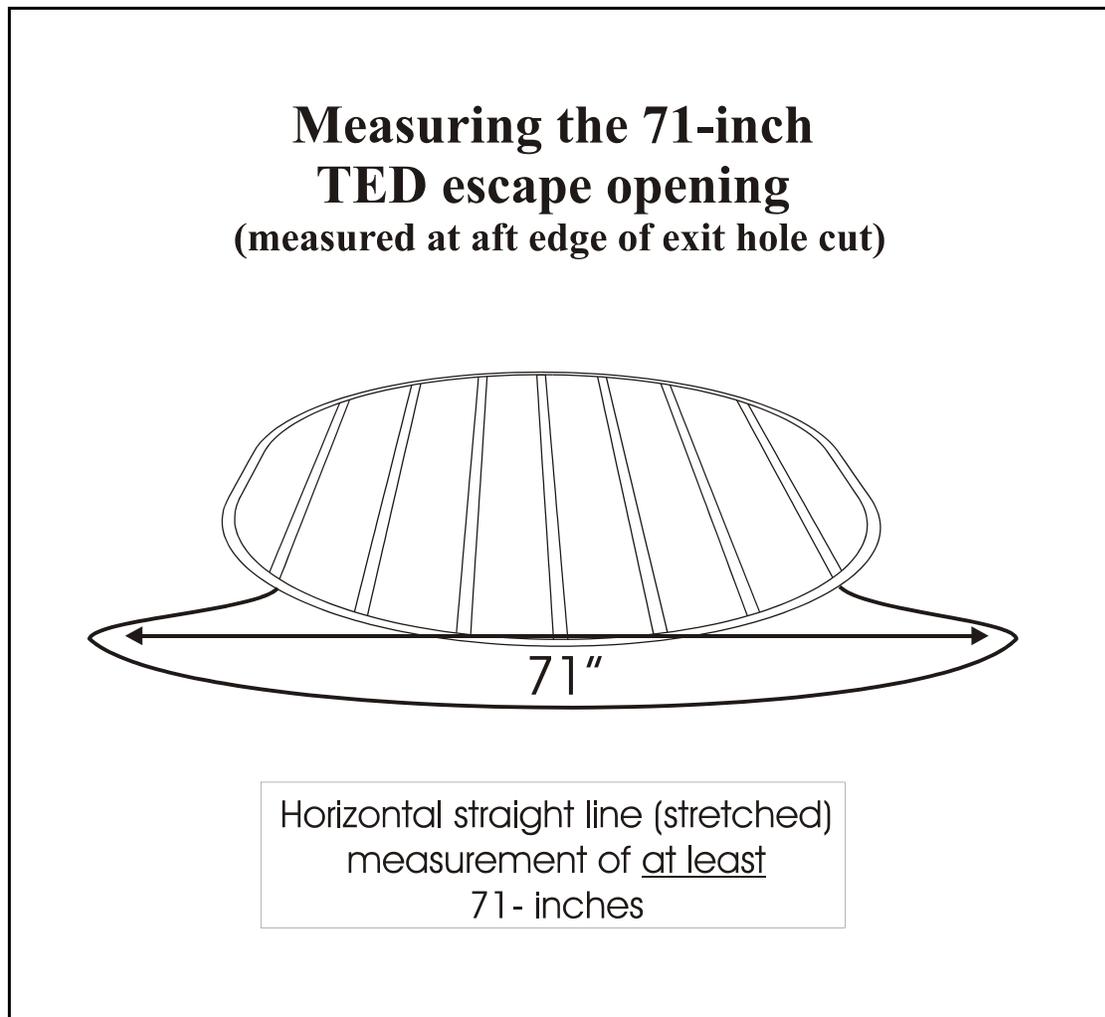


Figure 3 - 71-inch TED opening: Attachment of the exit hole cover.

3. Measurement of the 71-inch TED opening

The required opening should measure at least 71 inches when stretched in a straight line. The straight line stretched measurement must be taken at the aft edge of the exit hole cut. (Figure 4).



ACCELERATOR FUNNELS WITH THIS TED

If an optional accelerator funnel is used with the above TED in offshore waters or in the inshore waters of Georgia or South Carolina, the accelerator funnel must have an inside horizontal opening with a straight-line stretched measurement of at least 71 inches. In other inshore waters, the accelerator funnel must have an inside horizontal opening with a straight-line stretched measurement of at least 44 inches.