

**PACIFIC ISLANDS REGIONAL OBSERVER PROGRAM
 AMERICAN SAMOA LONGLINE
 ANNUAL STATUS REPORT
 January 1, 2008 – December 31, 2008**

Pacific Islands Regional Office
 National Marine Fisheries Service
 January 16, 2009

The American Samoa pelagic longline fishery targeting tunas has been monitored under a mandatory observer program since March 2006. Beginning April 2006, branch personnel have conducted daily shoreside dock rounds in American Samoa to determine which fishing vessels are in port. These dock rounds are used to obtain an estimate of fishing effort on a real-time basis by assuming that a vessel is fishing when it is absent from the harbor. This report is used to ensure prompt dissemination of American Samoa Longline Observer Data and may be revised after final data editing has been completed. The following table summarizes percent observer coverage for vessel departures, vessels arriving with observers, and protected species interactions for vessels arriving with observers during 2008.

Vessel Departures - 2008 (January 1, 2008 - December 31, 2008)

Departures -----	140
Departures with observers -----	9
Observer coverage 2008 -----	6.4%

Vessels Arriving with Observers - 2008

Departures with observers in 2008 -----	9
Observers departing in 2007 arriving in 2008 -----	2 *
Observers departing in 2008 arriving in 2009 -----	0
Total vessels arriving with observers - 2008 -----	11

Protected Species Interactions - 2007

Vessels arriving with observers - 2008 -----	11
Trips with turtle interactions -----	1
Trips without turtle interactions -----	10
Trips with marine mammal interactions -----	2
Trips without marine mammal interactions -----	9
Trips with seabird interactions -----	0
Trips without seabird interactions -----	11
Total Sea Turtles Interactions -----	1
Released Dead	
Green -----	1
Total Marine Mammal Interactions -----	3
Released Dead	
False Killer Whale -----	1
Released injured	
False Killer Whale -----	1
Rough Toughest Dolphin -----	1
Total Seabird Interactions -----	0
Total Sets	379
Total Hooks Retrieved	1,194,096
Turtles per 1,000 Hooks	0.001
Seabirds per 1,000 Hooks	0.000
Marine Mammals per 1,000 Hooks	0.003

Note: The percent of observer coverage is based on vessel departures.
 Protected species interactions are based on vessel arrivals. For the purpose of this report, an animal that becomes hooked or entangled is an interaction.

* Due to vessel confidentiality rules, 1 observed vessel that returned in 2007 has been added to this report.