



NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE

Pacific Islands
Regional Office

Regulation
Summary

Western Pacific General Longline Fishing

Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Pacific Remote Island Areas

revised July 23, 2010

This guide summarizes regulations for vessels that use longline gear to catch, land, or transship western Pacific pelagic management unit species (MUS) in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) around Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Pacific Remote Island Areas (PRIA). This regulation summary is intended to help fishermen comply with certain regulations governing the western Pacific pelagic longline fishery. The summary does not cover permit procedures in detail, and more detailed protected species handling procedures are provided in the Protected Species Workshop. The summary does not replace more detailed compliance guides provided by PIRO.

For the complete set of official regulations, see the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 50, Parts 300, 600, and 665. Regulations are subject to change, so this summary may become out of date. Any discrepancy between the contents of this summary and regulations published in the Code of Federal Regulations or the Federal Register will be resolved in favor of the Code of Federal Regulations or the Federal Register.

Longline gear means a type of fishing gear consisting of a main line that exceeds 1 nm in length, is suspended horizontally in the water column either anchored, floating, or attached to a vessel, and from which branch or dropper lines with hooks are attached; except that, within the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Protected Species Zone, longline gear means a type of fishing gear consisting of a main line of any length that is suspended horizontally in the water column either anchored, floating, or attached to a vessel, and from which branch or dropper lines with hooks are attached.

Fishing Permits and Certificates

If you use longline gear to catch tunas, swordfish, and other fish listed as management unit species in the Fishery Ecosystem Plan for Pelagic Fisheries of the Western Pacific Region, or land or transship longline-caught pelagic fish, in federal waters of the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) around Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, or the Pacific Remote Island Areas (PRIA), you must have the following permits and certificates, and they must be current and on board the vessel.

A legible copy of each original permit or certificate on board the vessel is usually acceptable. Contact NOAA Fisheries Pacific Islands Regional Office (PIRO) to obtain these Federal permits or certificates.

- Western Pacific General Longline (WPGL) Permit: Permit registered to the vessel in the name of the vessel owner. *Expires on March 3rd of each calendar year.*
 - Note 1:* A vessel registered to an American Samoa or Hawaii longline limited entry permit may also fish using longline gear and land or transship pelagic fish caught using longline gear in Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, and PRIA.
 - Note 2:* The WPGL permit is also valid for landing pelagic fish in American Samoa if the fish were caught using longline gear outside the EEZ around American Samoa.
- High Seas Fishing Compliance Act (HSFCA) Permit: You must have this permit if you fish in international waters.
 - WCPFC Area Endorsement: A supplemental registration is required to fish in the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) Convention Area.
- Marine Mammal Authorization Program Certificate: Certificate issued by PIRO and registered to the vessel owner. The certificate is necessary if you intend to fish in international waters with HSFCA permits. *Expires on March 3rd of each calendar year.*
- Protected Species Workshop Certificate: Certificate issued in the name of the vessel operator. (See Protected Species Workshop section below) *Expires one year from date of issuance.*
- Western Pacific Receiving Vessel Permit: A valid receiving vessel permit is required only if the vessel receives (transshipped) pelagic fish caught with longline gear by other vessels and intends to land or transship the catch anywhere within the Western Pacific region. *Expires March 3rd of each calendar year.*

Reporting, Monitoring, and Vessel and Gear Identification

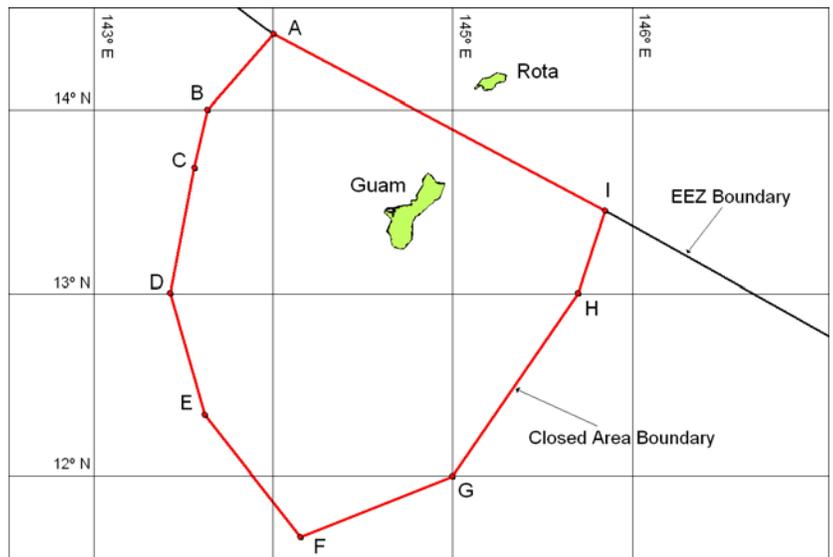
- Logbook. The vessel operator must record all longline catch, effort and other data on a NMFS Western Pacific Daily Longline Fishing logsheet for each longline set within 24 hours after the end of each fishing day and maintain the record aboard the vessel. The vessel operator must submit the completed and signed logsheet to NOAA Fisheries Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center (PIFSC) within 72 hours of returning to port. Logbooks are available from PIFSC (see contact information).
- Transshipment Logbook. Vessel operators with a Western Pacific Receiving Vessel Permit must submit a NMFS transshipment logbook form for each day of transshipment activity to PIFSC within 72 hours of each landing of Pacific pelagic management unit species. Logbooks are available from PIFSC.
- Marine Mammal Authorization Program (MMAP) Mortality/Injury Reporting Form. If any marine mammal interaction (hooking or entanglement) occurs, the vessel operator must complete and mail this pre-addressed, postage paid form to NOAA Fisheries within 48 hours of the end of the trip. Forms are available from PIRO (see contact information).
- Gear Identification. Your vessel's official number (US Coast Guard documentation number or state/territory vessel registration number) must be displayed on every longline buoy and float. Markings must be legible and permanent, and must be of a color that contrasts with the background material.

- Vessel Identification. Your international radio call sign or official number must be displayed on the hull and deck. For detailed marking requirements, see the *Compliance Guide for Vessel Identification Requirements for Western Pacific Pelagic Fishing* at www.fpir.noaa.gov/SFD/SFD_regs_2.html.

Prohibited Areas

- Guam Longline Fishing Prohibited Area. Longline fishing is prohibited in the area bounded by straight lines connecting the following points in order from A to I:

Point	N. Lat.	E. Lon.
A	14° 25'	144° 00'
B	14° 00'	143° 38'
C	13° 41'	143° 33' 33"
D	13° 00'	143° 25' 30"
E	12° 20'	143° 37'
F	11° 40'	144° 09'
G	12° 00'	145° 00'
H	13° 00'	145° 42'
I	13° 27'	145° 51'



- No-Take Marine Protected Areas:
 - Longline fishing is prohibited shoreward of the 50-fathom curve at Jarvis, Howland, and Baker Islands, and Kingman Reef.
 - Longline fishing is prohibited shoreward of the 50-fathom curve around Rose Atoll in American Samoa.
- Marine National Monuments: Commercial fishing is prohibited within the Islands Unit of the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument (Presidential Proclamation 8335), the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument (Presidential Proclamation 8336), and Rose Atoll Marine National Monument (Presidential Proclamation 8337). Generally, no fishing is allowed within 50 nm of the monuments. Contact PIRO for more details.

Protected Species Workshop

Each year, owners and operators of longline vessels registered to a WPGF must attend and be certified in the Protected Species Workshop (PSW) conducted by PIRO on mitigation, handling, and release techniques for sea turtles, seabirds and marine mammals.

- The PSW is offered in person and online.
- PIRO will issue a PSW certificate, valid for one year. The certificate can be renewed before it expires.
- The owner of a vessel registered for use under a WPGF must maintain and have on file a valid PSW certificate to maintain or renew their permit.
- The captain must have a valid PSW certificate (or a readable copy) in his/her name, on board the vessel.

- Owners and captains who have never been certified must attend a classroom first before taking the online course. After the initial classroom session, *owners* may take the online course indefinitely. *Captains* may take the online course two years in a row before being required to re-take the classroom course, as a review, to show they understand protected species handling techniques. In other words, *captains* must attend a classroom workshop every three years.

Sea Turtle Handling and Mitigation Measures

You are required to carry and use specific equipment for handling and releasing sea turtles or seabirds, and to follow specific procedures if you entangle or hook a sea turtle or seabird. Please refer to the handling guidelines provided at the Protected Species Workshop, or the PIRO website www.fpir.noaa.gov/SFD/SFD_psw_index.html. A separate compliance guide for sea turtle mitigation is available from the PIRO website at www.fpir.noaa.gov/SFD/SFD_regs_2.html.

- Vessels with freeboard of 3 ft (0.91 m) or less must carry line clippers capable of cutting fishing line or leaders within approximately 1 ft (0.3 m) of the eye of an embedded hook, and wire or bolt cutters capable of cutting through hooks. Freeboard is the distance between the vessel's deck and the sea surface.
- Vessels with freeboard more than 3 ft (0.91 m) must have the following turtle handling/dehooking gear on board:
 - 1) Long-handled line clipper
 - 2) Long-handled dip net
 - 3) Long-handled dehooker for ingested hooks (may substitute for item 4)
 - 4) Long-handled dehooker for external hooks
 - 5) Long-handled device to pull an "inverted V"
 - 6) Tire
 - 7) Short-handled dehooker with bite guard for ingested hooks (may substitute for item 8)
 - 8) Short-handled dehooker for external hooks
 - 9) Long-nose or needle-nose pliers
 - 10) Wire or bolt cutters
 - 11) Monofilament line cutters
 - 12) At least two of the following mouth openers and gags:

- Block of hard wood	- Hank of rope
- Large avian oral speculum	- Set of three canine mouth gags
- Set of two sturdy canine chew bones	- Set of two rope loops covered with hose
- Set of four PVC splice couplings	
- Vessels that shallow-set north of the equator must use 18/0 or larger circle hooks offset 0° to 10° and mackerel-type bait only – no squid.

Marine Mammal Handling and Release

NOAA Fisheries provides recommended guidelines for handling of marine mammals at the PSW. For any marine mammal interaction, the animal must be carefully handled to minimize further injury, and returned to the ocean unless directed otherwise by NOAA Fisheries personnel, contractor or official observer, or otherwise authorized by a scientific research permit held by the operator. You must report to NOAA Fisheries all marine mammal interactions on an *MMAP Mortality/Injury Reporting Form*.

Pacific Pelagic Management Unit Species

English Common Name	Scientific Name
Tunas:	
Albacore	<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>
Bigeye tuna	<i>Thunnus obesus</i>
Kawakawa	<i>Euthynnus affinis</i>
Northern bluefin tuna	<i>Thunnus thynnus</i>
Skipjack tuna	<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>
Yellowfin tuna	<i>Thunnus albacares</i>
Other tuna relatives	<i>Auxis</i> spp., <i>Scomber</i> spp., <i>Allothunus</i> spp.
Billfishes:	
Black marlin	<i>Makaira indica</i>
Indo-Pacific blue marlin	<i>Makaira mazara</i>
Sailfish	<i>Istiophorus platypterus</i>
Shortbill spearfish	<i>Tetrapturus angustirostris</i>
Striped marlin	<i>Tetrapturus audax</i>
Swordfish	<i>Xiphias gladius</i>
Sharks:	
Bigeye thresher	<i>Alopias superciliosus</i>
Blue shark	<i>Prionace glauca</i>
Common thresher shark	<i>Alopias vulpinus</i>
Longfin mako shark	<i>Isurus paucus</i>
Oceanic whitetip shark	<i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i>
Pelagic thresher shark	<i>Alopias pelagicus</i>
Salmon shark	<i>Lamna ditropis</i>
Shortfin mako shark	<i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i>
Silky shark	<i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i>
Other pelagic fishes:	
Mahimahi, dolphinfish	<i>Coryphaena</i> spp.
Moonfish, opah	<i>Lampris</i> spp.
Oilfish	family Gempylidae
Pomfret	family Bramidae
Wahoo, ono	<i>Acanthocybium solandri</i>
Squids:	
Diamondback squid	<i>Thysanoteuthis rhombus</i>
Neon flying squid	<i>Ommastrephes bartramii</i>
Purpleback flying squid	<i>Sthenoteuthis oualaniensis</i>

Shark Finning and Landings

- You may remove, possess, land, or sell shark fins if you keep the corresponding carcasses. If you intend to sell the fins, you must have the fins and the carcass(es) weighed at the same time.
- If you receive shark fins from another vessel, you must also keep the corresponding carcass(es).
- The total weight of shark fins landed may not exceed 5 percent of the total dressed weight of shark carcasses on board or landed from the vessel.
- You must allow NOAA Fisheries personnel access to, and inspection and copying of, any records relating to the weighing, landing, sale, purchase, or other disposition of shark fins or carcasses.

For more information, see the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 50, Part 600, Subpart N - Shark Finning.

Seabird Handling and Mitigation Measures

Handle and release hooked or entangled seabirds in a way that maximizes their survival. Follow the *Hooked Seabirds Handling Guidelines* provided at the PSW. Follow additional requirements for handling a short-tailed albatross in the *Guidelines for Handling Short-tailed Albatrosses*, also provided at the PSW.

Contact Information

Permits, Certificates, MMAP Report Forms, PSWs, Compliance Guides and Other Information (PIRO)

NOAA Fisheries Pacific Islands Regional Office	Ph:	(808) 944-2275 (for permits)
1601 Kapiolani Blvd., Suite 1110	Ph:	(808) 944-2200 (for PSW)
Honolulu, HI 96814-4700	Fax:	(808) 973-2940 (for permits)
	Web:	www.fpir.noaa.gov
	Email:	piro-permits@noaa.gov (permits only); piropsw@noaa.gov (PSW only)

Obtain or Submit Logbooks (PIFSC)

NOAA Fisheries Pacific Islands	Ph:	(808) 983-5325
Fisheries Science Center	Fax:	(808) 983-2902
ATTN: FMSD	Web:	www.pifsc.noaa.gov
2570 Dole St.		
Honolulu, HI 96822-2396		

Enforcement Information, or To Report a Violation

NOAA Office for Law Enforcement	Ph:	(808) 203-2500 (general)
1601 Kapiolani Blvd., Suite 950	Ph:	(800) 853-1964 (confidential hotline)
Honolulu, HI 96814-4700	Fax:	(808) 203-2599

Fishing in National Wildlife Refuges - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Pacific Remote Islands National Wildlife Refuge	Ph:	(808) 792-9550
300 Ala Moana Blvd., Suite 5-231	Fax:	(808) 792-9585
P.O. Box 50167	Web:	www.fws.gov/pacificislandsrefuges
Honolulu, HI 96850		

Fishing in the Pacific Remote Islands, Marianas Trench, and Rose Atoll Marine National Monuments

NOAA Fisheries Pacific Islands Regional Office	Ph:	(808) 944-2200
Sustainable Fisheries Division	Fax:	(808) 973-2941
1601 Kapiolani Blvd., Suite 1110	Web:	www.fpir.noaa.gov
Honolulu, HI 96814-4700		