



## NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE

Pacific Islands  
Regional Office

Regulation  
Summary

# Hawaii Pelagic Longline Fishery

revised March 30, 2011

This guide summarizes regulations for the Hawaii pelagic longline fishery. This guide applies only to owners and operators of vessels permitted to fish in the Hawaii longline limited entry fishery. The summary does not cover in detail permit renewal, transfer, permit appeal procedures, or observer requirements. For the complete set of official regulations, refer to Title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 300, 404, 600, and 665.

Regulations are subject to change, so fishermen must familiarize themselves with the most recent changes and are responsible to comply with them. Any discrepancies between this compliance guide and the regulations will be resolved in favor of the regulations published in the *Federal Register* and the Code of Federal Regulations. This compliance guide is issued in accordance with Section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996: Title II of Public Law 104-21.

If you use longline gear to catch tunas, swordfish, and other federally-managed pelagic species, or land or transship longline-caught fish, in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) around Hawaii, you must have specific permits and certificates that are current and on board your vessel.

*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

Contact PIRO to obtain the following Federal permits or certificates:

- Hawaii Longline Limited Entry Permit: Permit registered to the vessel in the name of the vessel owner. *Expires on March 3<sup>rd</sup> of each calendar year.*
- State of Hawaii Commercial Marine License: Fishing license from the Hawaii Division of Aquatic Resources (see Contact Information).
- High Seas Fishing Compliance Act (HSFCA) Permit: You must have this permit if you fish in international waters. Contact PIRO for information.
  - WCPFC Area Endorsement: A supplemental registration is required to fish in the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) Convention Area. Contact PIRO for information.
- Marine Mammal Authorization Program Certificate: Certificate issued by PIRO and registered to the vessel owner. *Expires on March 3<sup>rd</sup> of each calendar year.*
- Protected Species Workshop Certificate: Certificate issued in the name of the vessel operator. (See Protected Species Workshop) *Expires one year from date of issuance.*
- Western Pacific Receiving Vessel Permit: A receiving vessel of the United States must be registered for use with a valid receiving vessel permit if that vessel is used to land or transship, shoreward of the outer boundary of the EEZ around American Samoa, Hawaii, Guam, CNMI, or PRIA, any western Pacific pelagic management unit species (MUS) harvested with longline gear. You are not allowed to fish with longline gear and must stow or remove from your vessel any longline gear when operating as a receiving vessel. Contact PIRO for information. *Expires March 3<sup>rd</sup> of each calendar year.*

## Reporting, Monitoring, and Vessel and Gear Identification

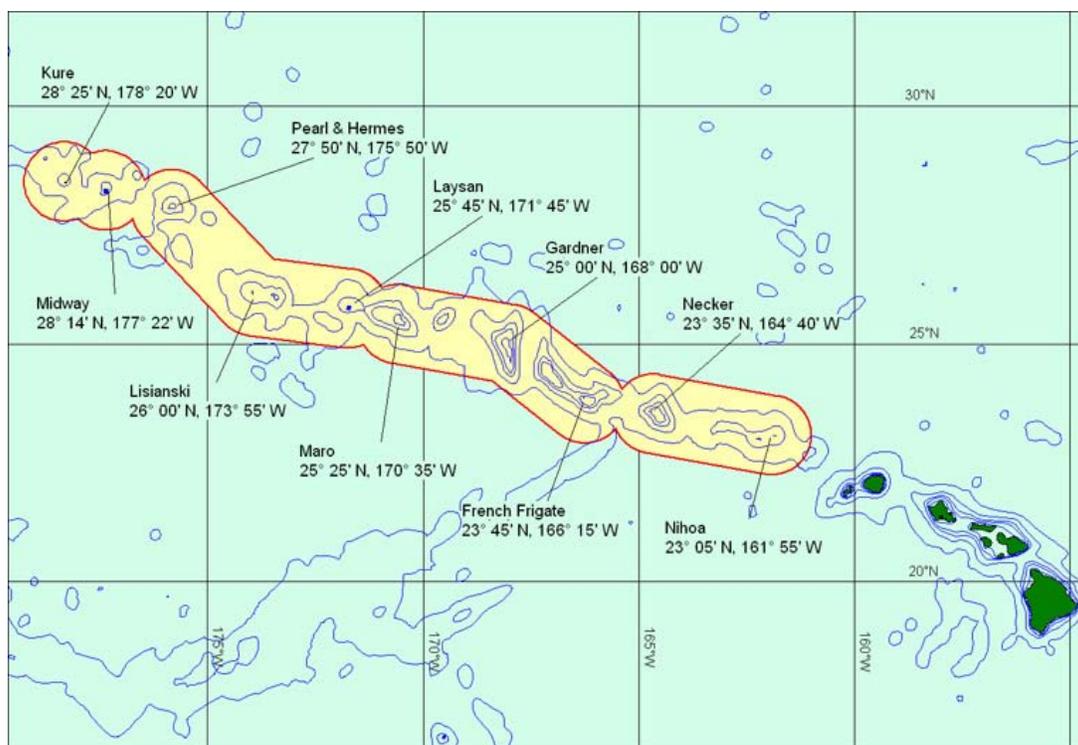
- Logbook. The vessel operator must record all longline catch, effort and other data on a NMFS Western Pacific Daily Longline Fishing logsheet for each longline set within 24 hours after the end of each fishing day and maintain the record aboard the vessel. The vessel operator must submit the completed 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 (see contact information).
- 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).
- Vessel Monitoring System. The vessel must have an operational NOAA Enforcement-owned and installed vessel monitoring system (VMS) unit on board whenever the vessel is at sea. Contact the NOAA Office for Law Enforcement for information and installation (see contact information).
- Vessel Identification. Either 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](http://www.fpir.noaa.gov/SFD/SFD_regs_2.html).
- 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.

## Notification and Observer Placement

- The vessel owner or operator must notify the PIRO Observer Program contractor (see Contact Information) at least 72 hours before departure on a fishing trip (not including weekends or Federal holidays), and declare the intended trip type (shallow-set or deep-set). Once a trip type has been declared and the fishing trip begins, the operator may make sets only of the declared type.
- The vessel is required to carry an observer if one is assigned. The PIRO Observer Program contractor will notify you if an observer has been assigned at least 24 hours before departing on the trip.
- You must follow the observer guidelines provided to you at the pre-trip observer placement meeting.

## Prohibited Areas

- 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.
- Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI) Longline Protected Species Zone. Longline fishing is prohibited within a 50 nautical mile (nm) radius from the geographic centers of the islands and atolls shown on the map below and within the 100 nm corridor shown on the map (see map for coordinates).



Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Longline Protected Species Zone

- Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. Commercial fishing is prohibited within the Monument. The boundary of the Monument is similar to the longline Protected Species Zone, but there are differences. Fishing vessels may transit through the Monument, but entering and leaving the Monument require notifying the Monument office. See the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 50, Part 404, for the coordinates and a map of the boundary and other requirements, or contact the Monument office (see Contact Information).
- Main Hawaiian Islands Longline Fishing Prohibited Area. Longline fishing is prohibited within the areas bounded by straight lines connecting the points listed below and corresponding map.

**Feb. 1 through Sep. 30,**  
within the straight line boundaries  
connecting the following points:

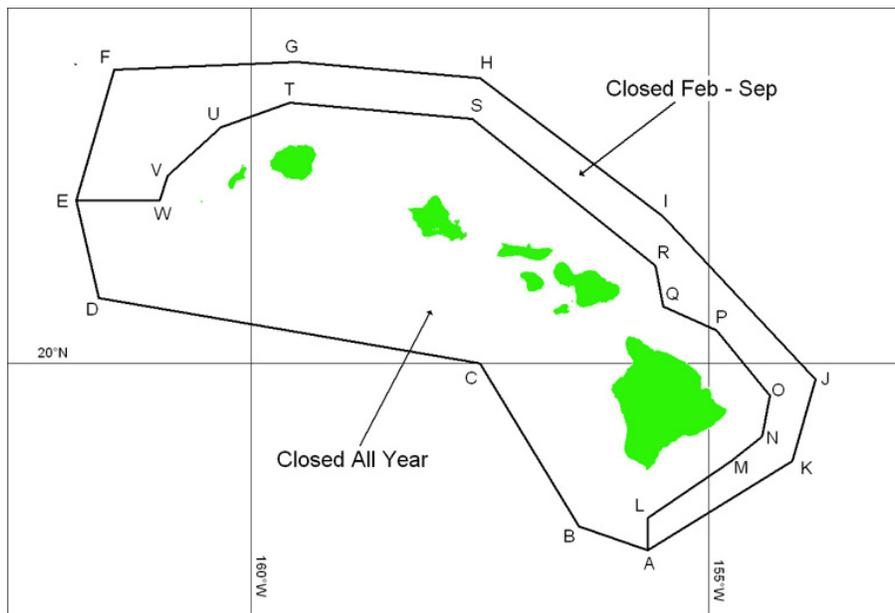
Point	N. Lat.	W. Lon.
A	18°05'	155°40'
B	18°20'	156°25'
C	20°00'	157°30'
D	20°40'	161°40'
E	21°40'	161°55'
F	23°00'	161°30'
G	23°05'	159°30'
H	22°55'	157°30'
I	21°30'	155°30'
J	19°50'	153°50'
K	19°00'	154°05'
A	18°05'	155°40'

**Oct. 1 through Jan. 31,**  
within the straight line boundaries  
connecting the following points:

Point	N. Lat.	W. Lon.
A	18°05'	155°40'
L	18°25'	155°40'
M	19°00'	154°45'
N	19°15'	154°25'
O	19°40'	154°20'
P	20°20'	154°55'
Q	20°35'	155°30'
R	21°00'	155°35'
S	22°30'	157°35'

**Oct. 1 through Jan. 31,**  
within the straight line boundaries  
connecting the following points:  
**Continued**

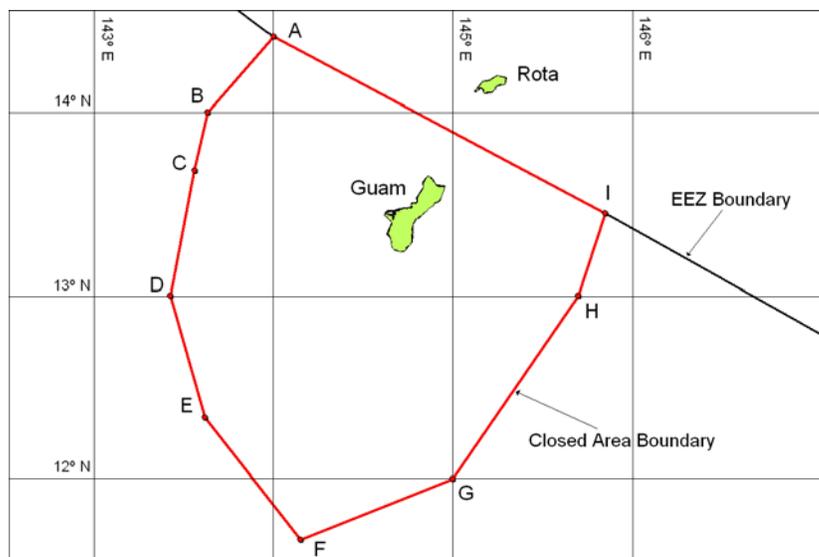
Point	N. Lat.	W. Lon.
T	22°40'	159°35'
U	22°25'	160°20'
V	21°55'	160°55'
W	21°40'	161°00'
E	21°40'	161°55'
D	20°40'	161°40'
C	20°00'	157°30'
B	18°20'	156°25'
A	18°05'	155°40'



Main Hawaiian Islands Longline Fishing Prohibited Area.

- 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.

### Shallow-set Fishery Sea Turtle Interaction Limits

- The maximum annual limits on sea turtle interactions for the Hawaii shallow-set longline fishery are:
  - 16 leatherback sea turtles
  - 17 loggerhead sea turtles
- If any sea turtle interaction limit is reached, the shallow-set fishery will be closed for the remainder of the calendar year. Vessel owners and operators will be notified of the closure and must stop shallow-set longline fishing operations north of the Equator (0° Lat.) immediately when the shallow-set fishery is declared closed by NOAA Fisheries. The current interaction tally is posted on the PIRO website (see Contact Information).

### Protected Species Workshop

Each year, owners and operators of longline vessels registered to a Hawaii longline limited entry permit 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 (see Contact Information).
- 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 Hawaii Longline Limited Entry Permit 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 and Seabird 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](http://www.fpir.noaa.gov/SFD/SFD_psw_index.html). Separate compliance guides for sea turtle and seabird mitigation are available from the PIRO website at [www.fpir.noaa.gov/SFD/SFD\\_regs\\_2.html](http://www.fpir.noaa.gov/SFD/SFD_regs_2.html).

The following requirements apply to all Hawaii longline limited entry permitted vessels. The requirements change, depending on where you fish and what type of fishing trip you declare. For example, deep-set requirements for stern-setting and side-setting differ if you are on a deep-set trip north of 23° N. latitude.

Deep-set Requirements		
South of 23° N.	North of 23° N.	
	Stern Set	Side Set
Line clippers, dip nets, and dehookers: 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: a. Block of hard wood b. Set of 3 canine mouth gags c. Set of 2 sturdy canine	Line clippers, dip nets, and dehookers: 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: a. Block of hard wood b. Set of 3 canine mouth gags c. Set of 2 sturdy canine chew bones d. Set of 2 rope loops covered with hose e. Hank of rope	Line clippers, dip nets, and dehookers: 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: a. Block of hard wood b. Set of 3 canine mouth gags c. Set of 2 sturdy canine chew bones d. Set of 2 rope loops covered with hose e. Hank of rope

Deep-set Requirements		
South of 23° N.	North of 23° N.	
	Stern Set	Side Set
chew bones d. Set of 2 rope loops covered with hose e. Hank of rope f. Set of 4 PVC splice couplings g. Large avian oral speculum	f. Set of four PVC splice couplings g. Large avian oral speculum	f. Set of 4 PVC splice couplings g. Large avian oral speculum
Float lines at least 20 m (65 ft 7 in)	Float lines at least 20 m (65 ft 7 in)	Float lines at least 20 m (65 ft 7 in)
At least 15 branch lines between any two floats (except basket gear: at least 10 branch lines between floats)	At least 15 branch lines between any two floats (except basket gear: at least 10 branch lines between floats)	At least 15 branch lines between any two floats (except basket gear: at least 10 branch lines between floats)
No light sticks on vessel	No light sticks on vessel	No light sticks on vessel
No more than 10 swordfish possessed or landed at any time during a given trip	No more than 10 swordfish possessed or landed at any time during a given trip	No more than 10 swordfish possessed or landed at any time during a given trip
	Use line shooter	Deploy bird curtain when setting gear
	Branch lines with 45 g (1.6 oz) weight within 1 m (3 ft 3 in) of each hook	Branch lines with 45 g (1.6 oz) weight within 1 m (3 ft 3 in) of each hook
	Blue-dyed Bait: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Bait completely-thawed</li> <li>o Bait dyed to match NOAA Fisheries color control card</li> <li>o At least two 1-pound cans of blue dye</li> </ul>	Mainline set from port or starboard side, as far forward as possible, at least 1 m (3 ft 3 in) from stern
	Strategic Offal Discharge: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o When birds are present, discharge fish, fish parts, or spent bait while setting or hauling, on opposite side of the vessel from fishing gear</li> <li>o Retain enough fish, fish parts, or spent bait between sets of longline gear for strategic offal discharge</li> <li>o Remove hooks from fish, fish parts, or spent bait prior to strategic offal discharge</li> <li>o Remove bill and liver from all swordfish, sever heads from trunk and split in half vertically, and periodically discharge butchered heads and livers for strategic offal discharge</li> </ul>	Line shooter, if used, mounted as far forward as possible, at least 1 m (3 ft 3 in) from stern
	When using basket-style gear, ensure mainline is set slack	When seabirds are present, set gear so hooks remain submerged

Shallow-set Requirements		
Between the Equator (0°) and 23° N.	North of 23° N.	
	Stern Set	Side Set
18/0 or larger circle hooks offset 0° to 10°	18/0 or larger circle hooks offset 0° to 10°	18/0 or larger circle hooks offset 0° to 10°
Mackerel-type bait only – no squid	Mackerel-type bait only – no squid	Mackerel-type bait only – no squid
Line clippers, dip nets, and dehookers: 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: a. Block of hard wood b. Set of 3 canine mouth gags c. Set of 2 sturdy canine chew bones d. Set of 2 rope loops covered with hose e. Hank of rope f. Set of 4 PVC splice couplings g. Large avian oral speculum	Line clippers, dip nets, and dehookers: 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: a. Block of hard wood b. Set of 3 canine mouth gags c. Set of 2 sturdy canine chew bones d. Set of 2 rope loops covered with hose e. Hank of rope f. Set of 4 PVC splice couplings g. Large avian oral speculum	Line clippers, dip nets, and dehookers: 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: a. Block of hard wood b. Set of 3 canine mouth gags c. Set of 2 sturdy canine chew bones d. Set of 2 rope loops covered with hose e. Hank of rope f. Set of 4 PVC splice couplings g. Large avian oral speculum
	Night set. Begin set at least 1 hour after sunset and finish setting before sunrise, using minimum vessel lights necessary for navigation and safety	Deploy bird curtain when setting gear
	When using basket-style gear, ensure mainline is set slack	Branch lines with 45 g (1.6 oz) weight within 1 m (3 ft 3 in) of each hook

Shallow-set Requirements		
Between the Equator (0°) and 23° N.	North of 23° N.	
	Stern Set	Side Set
	Blue-dyed Bait: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Bait completely-thawed</li> <li>○ Bait dyed to match NOAA Fisheries color control card</li> <li>○ At least two 1-pound cans of blue dye</li> </ul>	Mainline set from port or starboard side, as far forward as possible, and at least 1 m (3 ft 3 in) from stern
Strategic Offal Discharge: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ When birds are present, discharge fish, fish parts, or spent bait while setting or hauling, on opposite side of the vessel from fishing gear</li> <li>○ Retain enough fish, fish parts, or spent bait between sets of longline gear for strategic offal discharge</li> <li>○ Remove hooks from fish, fish parts, or spent bait prior to strategic offal discharge</li> <li>○ Remove bill and liver from all swordfish, sever heads from trunk and split in half vertically, and periodically discharge butchered heads and livers for strategic offal discharge</li> </ul>	Line shooter, if used, mounted as far forward as possible, at least 1 m (3 ft 3 in) from stern  When seabirds are present, gear set so hooks remain submerged	

**Marine Mammal Handling and Release**

NOAA Fisheries distributes 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 a *MMAP Mortality/Injury Reporting Form*.

**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.

## Contact Information

### Permits, Certificates, MMAP Report Forms, PSWs, Compliance Guides and Other Information

NOAA Fisheries Pacific Islands Regional Office  
1601 Kapiolani Blvd., Suite 1110  
Honolulu, HI 96814-4700

Ph: (808) 944-2275 (for permits)  
Ph: (808) 944-2200 (for PSW)  
Fax: (808) 973-2940 (for permits)  
Web: [www.fpir.noaa.gov/](http://www.fpir.noaa.gov/)  
Email: [piro-permits@noaa.gov](mailto:piro-permits@noaa.gov) (permits only);  
[piropsw@noaa.gov](mailto:piropsw@noaa.gov) (PSW only)

### Vessel Departure Notification or Observer Placement

PIRO Observer Program contractor:  
Saltwater, Inc. (attn: Josee Vincent)  
1023 Pensacola St., Unit G  
Honolulu, HI 96814

Ph: (808) 949-1141 (vessel call-ins)  
Ph: (808) 282-5318 (office cell)  
Fax: (808) 593-9212  
Email: [josee@saltwaterinc.com](mailto:josee@saltwaterinc.com)

### Obtain or Submit Logbooks (PIFSC)

NOAA Fisheries Pacific Islands  
Fisheries Science Center  
ATTN: FMSD  
2570 Dole St.  
Honolulu, HI 96822-2396

Ph: (808) 983-5325  
Fax: (808) 983-2902  
Web: [www.pifsc.noaa.gov/](http://www.pifsc.noaa.gov/)

### VMS, Enforcement Information, or To Report a Violation

NOAA Office for Law Enforcement  
1601 Kapiolani Blvd., Suite 950  
Honolulu, HI 96814-4700

Ph: (808) 203-2500 (general)  
Ph: (808) 203-2503 (for VMS)  
Ph: (800) 853-1964 (confidential hotline)  
Fax: (808) 203-2599

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

Pacific Remote Islands National Wildlife Refuge Manager  
300 Ala Moana Blvd., Suite 5-231  
P.O. Box 50167  
Honolulu, HI 96850

Ph: (808) 792-9550  
Fax: (808) 792-9585  
Web: [www.fws.gov/pacificislandsrefuges/](http://www.fws.gov/pacificislandsrefuges/)

### State of Hawaii Commercial Marine Licenses and Reports

Hawaii Division of Aquatic Resources  
1151 Punchbowl St., Rm. 330  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Ph: (808) 587-0103 (licenses)  
Ph: (808) 587-0100 (general)  
Fax: (808) 587-0115  
Web: [www.hawaii.gov/dlnr/dar](http://www.hawaii.gov/dlnr/dar)

### Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument

NOAA  
6600 Kalanianaʻole Hwy., Suite 300  
Honolulu, HI 96825

Ph: (808) 397-2657 (info.),  
(866) 478-6944 (notification)  
Fax: (808) 397-2662  
Web: [www.papahānaumokuākea.gov/](http://www.papahānaumokuākea.gov/)  
Email: [nwhi.notifications@noaa.gov](mailto:nwhi.notifications@noaa.gov)  
(notification)

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

NOAA Fisheries Pacific Islands Regional Office  
Sustainable Fisheries Division  
1601 Kapiolani Blvd., Suite 1110  
Honolulu, HI 96814-4700

Ph: (808) 944-2200  
Fax: (808) 973-2941  
Web: [www.fpir.noaa.gov/](http://www.fpir.noaa.gov/)