



NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE

Pacific Islands
Regional Office

Regulation
Summary

Western Pacific General Longline Fishing

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

revised August 27, 2012

This guide summarizes regulations for vessels that use longline gear to catch, land, or transship western Pacific pelagic management unit species in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) around Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), and the Pacific Remote Island Areas (PRIA). 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 NOAA Fisheries Pacific Islands Regional Office (PIRO).

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

For the complete set of official regulations, see the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Title 50, Parts [300](#), [404](#), [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 Regulations are subject to change, so this summary may become out of date.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.

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 (see pg. 6), or land or transship longline-caught pelagic fish, in federal waters of the U.S. EEZ around Guam, CNMI, or PRIA, you must have the following permits and certificates, and they must be current and on board the vessel. Please [click here](#) to visit the website and download fishing permit applications or contact PIRO to obtain Federal permits or certificates. Contact info is at the end of this Regulation Summary.

A legible copy of each original permit or certificate on board the vessel is usually acceptable.

- Western Pacific General Longline 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 access permit may also fish using longline gear and land or transship pelagic fish caught using longline gear in Guam, CNMI, and PRIA.
 - Note 2:* The Western Pacific General Longline 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 Permit: You must have this permit if you fish outside the U.S. EEZ (outside 200 nm from shore).
 - Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Convention Endorsement: A supplemental registration is required to fish in the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Convention Area (click [here](#) for map of 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 High Seas Fishing Compliance Act 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 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 harvested with longline gear. *Expires March 3rd of each calendar year.*

Reporting, Monitoring, and Vessel and Gear Identification

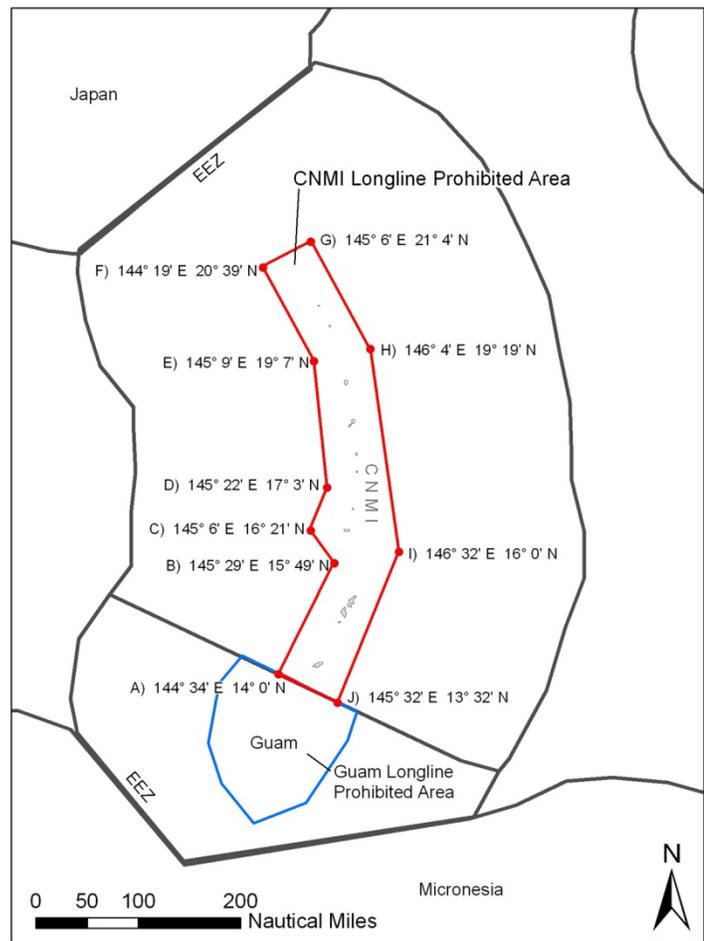
- Logbook. The vessel operator must record all longline catch, effort and other data on a National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Western Pacific Daily Longline Fishing logsheet for each longline set within 24 hours after the end of each fishing day and maintain the record aboard the vessel. The vessel 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 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 Fishing Areas

- **Marine National Monuments:** Commercial fishing is prohibited in 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, fishing is not allowed within 50 nm of the monuments. Contact PIRO for more details.
- **CNMI Longline Fishing Prohibited Area.** Longline fishing is prohibited in the area bounded by straight lines connecting the following points in order from A to A.

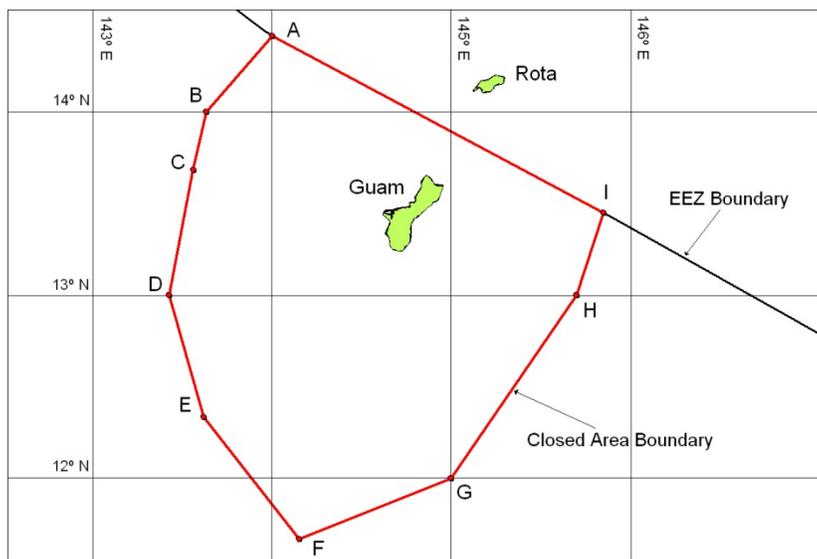
Point	N. Lat.	E. Lon.
A	14° 00'	144° 34'
B	15° 49'	145° 29'
C	16° 21'	145° 06'
D	17° 03'	145° 22'
E	19° 07'	145° 09'
F	20° 39'	144° 19'
G	21° 04'	145° 06'
H	19° 19'	146° 04'
I	16° 00'	146° 32'
J	13° 32'	145° 32'
A	14° 00'	144° 34'



CNMI 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'



Guam Longline Fishing Prohibited Area

- 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.

American Samoa and South Pacific Longline Gear Requirements

To reduce interactions with green sea turtles, U.S. longline vessel permitted to fish in the western Pacific that are longer than 40 feet (12.2 meters) must meet the following conditions when fishing south of the Equator (see 50 CFR [665.813](#)).

- Each float line must be at least 30 meters (m) long.
- There must be at least 70 m of blank mainline (without hooks attached) before and after all floats with hooks between them.
- When hooks are deployed, there must be at least 15 branch lines attached between each float.
- Each branch line must be at least 10 m long.
- You may not keep or land more than 10 swordfish during a fishing trip.

Protected Species Workshop

Each year, owners and operators of longline vessels registered to a Western Pacific General Longline 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 Western Pacific General Longline 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 and to follow specific procedures if you entangle or hook a sea turtle. Please refer to the [Protected Species Identification, Handling and Release Guidelines](#) provided at the PSW, 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 (mackerel, sanma, sardines) – no squid.

Marine Mammal Handling and Release

NOAA Fisheries provides recommended [Protected Species Identification, Handling and Release Guidelines](#) for 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 Marine Mammal Authorization Program [Mortality/Injury Reporting Form](#).

Seabird Handling and Mitigation Measures

Follow specific procedures to set gear, and handle and release hooked or entangled seabirds in a way that maximizes their survival. Follow the *Seabirds Handling Guidelines* in the [Protected Species Identification, Handling and Release Guidelines](#) and [gear setting regulations](#) provided at the PSW for handling seabirds and use the [short-tailed albatross recovery data form](#), also provided at the PSW.

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>
Pacific bluefin tuna	<i>Thunnus orientalis</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>Istiompax indica</i>
Pacific blue marlin	<i>Makaira nigricans</i>
Sailfish	<i>Istiophorus platypterus</i>
Shortbill spearfish	<i>Tetrapturus angustirostris</i>
Striped marlin	<i>Kajikia audax</i>
Swordfish	<i>Xiphias gladius</i>
Sharks:	
Bigeye thresher shark	<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](#).

Contact Information

Permits, Certificates, Marine Mammal Authorization Program 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 (Protected Species Workshop)
Fax: (808) 973-2940 (for permits)
Web: www.fpir.noaa.gov/
Email: piro-permits@noaa.gov (permits only);
piroPSW@noaa.gov (Protected Species Workshop only)

Obtain or Submit Logbooks (PIFSC)

NOAA Fisheries Pacific Islands
Fisheries Science Center
ATTN: Walter, Fisheries Research and Monitoring
2570 Dole St.
Honolulu, HI 96822-2396

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

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: (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
300 Ala Moana Blvd., Suite 5-211
P.O. Box 50167
Honolulu, HI 96850

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

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