NOAA FISHERIES
Pacific Islands Regional Office

Regulation Summary

American Samoa Pelagic Longline Fishing

(revised August 2014)

This guide summarizes regulations for the American Samoa pelagic longline fishery, including the limited entry program. This guide applies only to owners and operators of vessels permitted to fish in the American Samoa fishery. Specific regulations implementing the American Samoa longline limited entry program are in **50 CFR 665.816**.

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.

For the complete official fishing regulations, refer to Title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Parts **229**, **300**, **404**, **600**, and **665**. Regulations are subject to change, and any discrepancies between this compliance guide and the regulations will be resolved in favor of the regulations published in the *Federal Register* and the CFR. 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.

For more information or to obtain additional copies of this guide please contact:

Sustainable Fisheries
NMFS Pacific Islands Regional Office
1845 Wasp Blvd., Bldg. 176
Honolulu, HI 96818

Tel: 808-725-5000
Fax: 808-725-5215
Website: **www.fpir.noaa.gov**

Fishing Permits and Certificates

If you use longline gear to land or tranship tunas, swordfish or any western Pacific pelagic management unit species (see pg. 6) in federal waters of the U.S. Exclusive Zone (EEZ) around American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Mariana Islands (CNMI), 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. Please click **here** to visit the website and download fishing permit applications or contact PIRO to obtain Federal permits or certificates (see Contact Information).

American Samoa Longline Limited Entry Permit: Permit registered to the vessel in the name of the vessel owner. *Expires three years from issuance.* American Samoa longline permits are issued to four vessel size classes. Length overall is the length of the hull, measured parallel to the waterline, from the tip of the bow to the end of the stern, not including projecting parts like bowsprits, rudders, outboard motor brackets, or other accessories (see **50 CFR 665.12**).

Vessel Size Class	Vessel Length Overall
A	less than or equal to 40 ft (12.2 m)
B	over 40 ft (12.2 m) to 50 ft (15.2 m)
C	over 50 ft (15.2 m) to 70 ft (21.3 m)
D	over 70 ft (21.3 m)

Western Pacific Receiving Vessel Permit: A U.S. vessel 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. Expires March 3rd of each calendar year.*

High Seas Fishing Compliance Act Permit: You must have this permit if you fish outside the EEZ (outside 200 nm from shore).

Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Convention Area 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 *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 on page 3). *Expires one year from date of issuance*.

Marine National Monuments: Commercial fishing is prohibited within the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument, Rose Atoll Marine National Monument, and the Islands Unit of the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument. Generally, no fishing is allowed within 50 nm of the monuments.

Reporting, Monitoring, and Vessel and Gear Identification

NMFS Western Pacific Daily Longline Fishing Log. The vessel operator must complete a log sheet within 24 hours of the end of each fishing day, and maintain the log sheet on board the vessel. The completed and signed log sheets must be submitted to NMFS within 72 hours of returning to port. Instructions are provided with the log sheet. Contact the PIRO American Samoa Field Office to request blank log sheets (see Contact Information).

NMFS Transshipment Log Report. The operator of a receiving vessel must submit a NMFS transshipment log report to NMFS within 72 hours of the end of the trip. Issuing and receiving of the transshipment logs is handled by the PIRO American Samoa Field Office (see Contact Information).

Marine Mammal Authorization Program Mortality/Injury Reporting Form: If a marine mammal interaction (hooking or entanglement) occurs, the vessel operator must complete and mail this pre-addressed, postage paid form to NOAA/NMFS within 48 hours after the end of the trip. Forms are available from PIRO (see Contact Information).

Vessel Monitoring System (VMS). If your vessel is longer than 50 ft (15.2 m), you must also carry an operational VMS unit owned and installed by NMFS. The VMS transmits your vessel's position to NMFS for monitoring compliance with prohibited areas and other regulations. Contact the NOAA Office of Law Enforcement in Honolulu (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**.

Gear Identification: Your vessel's official 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

If your vessel is longer than 40 ft (12.2 m):

- The vessel owner, permit holder, designated agent, or operator must notify the PIRO American Samoa Observer Program at least 72 hours before leaving on a trip so PIRO can determine if an observer will be placed on your vessel (see Contact Information).
- The vessel is required to carry a NMFS observer if requested by PIRO.
- You must follow the observer guidelines provided to you at the pre-trip observer placement meeting.

Protected Species Workshop

Each year, owners and operators of longline vessels registered to an American Samoa longline permit must complete the Protected Species Workshop (PSW) conducted by PIRO on identification, bycatch mitigation, and safe 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 that is valid for one year. The certificate can be renewed before it expires.
- The owner of an American Samoa longline vessel 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.

Sea Turtle, Seabird, and Marine Mammal Safe Handling and Mitigation Measures

You are required to carry and use specific equipment for handling and releasing sea turtles, seabirds, and marine mammals, and/or to follow specific procedures if you hook or entangle these animals. Please refer to the Protected Species Identification, Handling and Release Guidelines placards provided at the Protected Species Workshop. These placards, the quick guide to gear setting regulations, the short-tailed albatross recovery data form, and other information are provided at the PSW and are also available at **www.fpir.noaa.gov**.

SEA TURTLES

You are required to carry and use specific equipment for handling and releasing sea turtles and to follow specific procedures if you hook or entangle a sea turtle. See separate compliance guide for sea turtles 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. Car 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
        - Large avian oral speculum
        - Set of two sturdy canine chew bones
        - Set of four PVC splice couplings
        - Hank of rope
        - Set of three canine mouth gags
        - Set of two rope loops covered with hose

- Vessels that shallow-set north of the Equator must use:
    - Size 18/0 or larger circle hooks and, if the hook is offset, it must be offset by no more than 10°
    - Mackerel-type fish bait only (sardines, sanma, mackerel) – no squid

SEABIRDS

You are required to carry and use specific equipment for handling and releasing seabirds and to follow specific procedures if you hook or entangle a seabird. A separate seabird compliance guide is available from the PIRO website at **www.fpir.noaa.gov/SFD/SFD_regs_2.html**.

MARINE MAMMALS

NMFS distributes recommended guidelines for handling of marine mammals at the PSW. Animals must be handled carefully to minimize further injury, and returned to the ocean unless directed otherwise by NMFS personnel, contractor or official observer, or otherwise authorized by a scientific research permit held by the operator. You must report marine mammal interactions on a *Marine Mammal Authorization Program Mortality/Injury Reporting Form,* even if an observor was aboard, within 48 hours of the end of a fishing trip.

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 NMFS 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**.

American Samoa and South Pacific Longline Gear Requirements

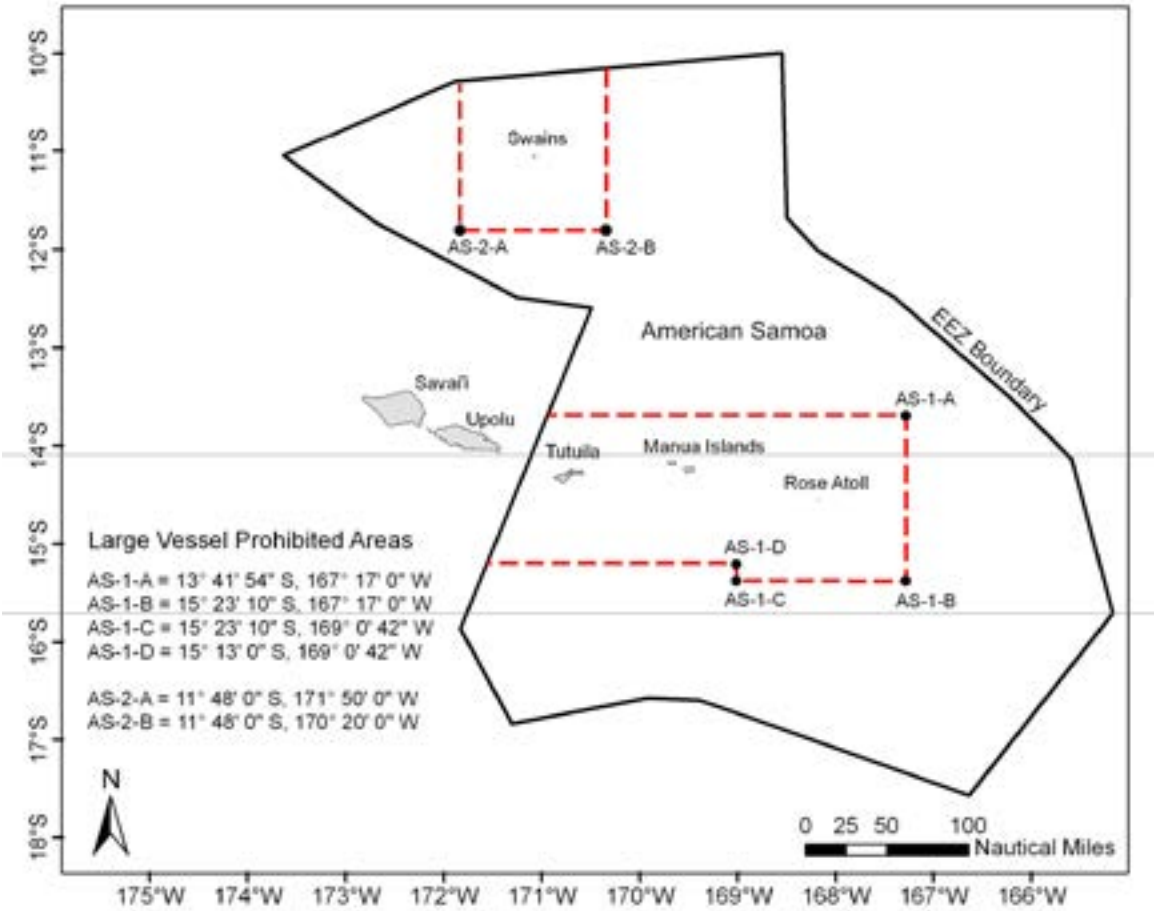
To reduce interactions with green sea turtles, permitted U.S. longline vessels that are longer than 40 feet (12.2 meters) must meet the following conditions when fishing south of the Equator (see **50 CFR 665.813**).

- 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.

Large Vessel Prohibited Areas

Vessels 50 ft and longer are prohibited from fishing for pelagic fish in specific areas around Tutuila, the Manua Islands, Rose Atoll, and Swains Island. NMFS revised the prohibited area around Tutuila, the Manua Islands, and Rose Atoll in July 2012 to match the boundaries of the Rose Atoll Marine National Monument. See the map on the following page for the updated coordinates.



The solid line indicates the boundary of the U.S. EEZ around American Samoa.
The dashed lines show the boundaries of the large vessel prohibited areas.

Pacific Pelagic Management Unit Species

COMMON NAME		SAMOAN NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
Tunas	Albacore	Apakoa	*Thunnus alalunga*
	Bigeye tuna	Asiasi, To'uo	*Thunnus obesus*
	Kawakawa	Atualo, Kavalau	*Euthynnus affinis*
	Pacific bluefin tuna		*Thunnus orientalis*
	Skipjack tuna	Atu, Faolua, Ga'oga	*Katsuwonus pelamis*
	Yellowfin tuna	Asiasi , To'uo	*Thunnus albacares*
	Other tuna relatives		*Auxis* spp., *Scomber* spp., *Allothunus* spp.
Billfishes	Black marlin		*Istiompax indica*
	Pacific blue marlin	Sa'ula oso	*Makaira nigricans*
	Sailfish	Sa'ula lele	*Istiophorus platypterus*
	Shortbill spearfish	Sa'ula gutu pu'u	*Tetrapturus angustirostris*
	Striped marlin		*Kajikia audax*
	Swordfish	Sa'ula malie	*Xiphias gladius*
Sharks	Bigeye thresher shark		*Alopias superciliosus*
	Blue shark	Malie	*Prionace glauca*
	Common thresher shark		*Alopias vulpinus*
	Longfin mako shark		*Isurus paucus*
	Oceanic whitetip shark	Apoapo	*Carcharhinus longimanus*
	Pelagic thresher shark	Malie	*Alopias pelagicus*
	Salmon shark		*Lamna ditropis*
	Shortfin mako shark	Aso polota	*Isurus oxyrinchus*
	Silky shark		*Carcharhinus falciformis*
Other pelagic species	Mahimahi, Dolphinfish	Masimasi	*Coryphaena* spp.
	Moonfish, Opah	Koko	*Lampris* spp.
	Oilfish	Palu	family Gempylidae
	Pomfret	Manifi moana	family Bramidae
	Wahoo, Ono	Paala	*Acanthocybium solandri*
Squids	Diamondback squid		*Thysanoteuthis rhombus*
	Neon flying squid		*Ommastrephes bartramii*
	Purpleback flying squid		*Sthenoteuthis oualaniensis*
	Neon flying squid		*Ommastrephes bartramii*

Contact Information

Fishing Permits, Certificates, MMAP Report Forms, Compliance Guides and Other Information

Sustainable Fisheries
NMFS Pacific Islands Regional Office
1845 Wasp Blvd., Bldg. 176
Honolulu, HI 96818
Phone: (808) 725-5190
Fax: (808) 725-5215
Email: piro-permits@noaa.gov
Web: **www.fpir.noaa.gov/SFD/SFD_permits_index.html**

American Samoa Field Office
Pago Plaza, Suite 202
Pago Pago, Tutuila
Phone: (684) 633-5325

Protected Species Workshop

NMFS Pier 38 Service Center
1139 N. Nimitz Hwy, Suite 220
Honolulu, HI 96817
Phone: (808) 944-2300
American Samoa Field Office: (684) 252-2567
Email: piropsw@noaa.gov
Web: **www.fpir.noaa.gov/SFD/SFD_psw_index.html**

Vessel Departure Notification or Observer Placement

American Samoa Observer Program
Phone: (684) 633-5325

Obtain or Submit Logbooks

American Samoa Field Office
Phone: (684) 633-5598

American Samoa DMWR
Phone: (684) 633-4456

VMS, Enforcement Information, or To Report a Violation

NOAA Office of Law Enforcement
1845 Wasp Blvd., Bldg. 176
Honolulu, HI 96818
Phone: (808) 725-6100
VMS: (808) 725-6110
Confidential hotline: (800) 853-1964
Fax: (808) 725-6199
Web: **www.nmfs.noaa.gov/ole**