

**HAWAII LONGLINE OBSERVER PROGRAM
ANNUAL STATUS REPORT
January 1, 2003 - December 31, 2003**

Pacific Islands Regional Office
National Marine Fisheries Service
February 9, 2004

The Hawaii-based pelagic longline fishery targeting swordfish and tunas has been monitored under a mandatory observer program since February 1994. Beginning March 1994, branch personnel have conducted daily shoreside dock rounds in Honolulu 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 Hawaii Longline Observer Data and may be revised. The following table summarizes percent observer coverage for vessel departures, vessels arriving with observers, and protected species interactions for vessels arriving with observers during 2003.

Vessel Departures – 2003 (January 1, 2003 – December 31, 2003)	
Departures -----	1200
Departures with Observers -----	266
Observer coverage 2003 -----	22.2%

Vessels Arriving with Observers – 2003	
Departures with observers in 2003 -----	266
Observers departing in 2002 arriving in 2003 -----	3
Observers departing in 2003 arriving in 2004 -----	10
Total vessels arriving with observers – 2003 -----	259

Protected Species Interactions – 2003	
Vessels arriving with observers in 2003 -----	259
Trips with turtle interactions -----	4
Trips without turtle interactions -----	255
Trips with marine mammal interactions -----	5
Trips without marine mammal interactions -----	254
Trips with seabird interactions -----	17
Trips without seabird interactions -----	242

Total Sea Turtle Interactions -----	4
Released Dead	
Olive Ridley -----	3
Leatherback -----	1

Total Marine Mammal Interactions -----	5
Released Injured	
False Killer Whale -----	2
Unidentified Cetacean -----	1
Unidentified Whale -----	1

Released Dead	
Bottlenose Dolphin -----	1

Total Seabird Interactions -----	68
Released Injured	
Black-footed Albatross -----	1
Released Dead	
Laysan Albatross -----	44
Black-footed Albatross -----	23

Total Sets	3204
Total Hooks Retrieved	6,442,221
Turtles per 1,000 Hooks	0.001
Seabirds per 1,000 Hooks	0.011
Marine Mammals per 1,000 Hooks	0.001

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.