



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
 Pacific Islands Regional Office
 1601 Kapiolani Blvd., Suite 1110
 Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-4700
 (808) 944-2200 • Fax (808) 973-2941

Summary of Hawaii Longline Fishing Regulations

Revised January 28, 2010

Fishing Permits and Certificates

If you use longline gear¹ 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 the following permits and certificates, and they must be current and on board the vessel.** A legible copy of the original permit or certificate on board the vessel is usually acceptable. Please contact the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS, NOAA Fisheries) Pacific Islands Regional Office (PIRO) to obtain the Federal permits or certificates.

- Hawaii Longline Limited Entry Permit registered to the vessel under the name of the vessel owner. *Expires on March 3rd of each calendar year.*
- Marine Mammal Authorization Program Certificate issued and registered to the vessel owner. *Expires on March 3rd of each calendar year.*
- High Seas Fishing Compliance Act Permit registered to the vessel and the vessel owner, if fishing outside the U.S. EEZ in international waters. *Expires five years from date issued.*
 - 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.
- Protected Species Workshop Certificate in the name of the vessel operator. (See Protected Species Workshop section below for details.) *Expires one year from date of issuance.*
- Western Pacific Receiving Vessel Permit is required if a vessel receives (transshipped) pelagic fish caught with longline gear from another longline vessel and intends to land or transship the catch anywhere within the western Pacific region. *Expires March 3rd of each calendar year.*
- State of Hawaii Commercial Marine License from the Hawaii Division of Aquatic Resources (see Contact Information).

Reporting, Monitoring, and Vessel and Gear Identification

- Logbook. The vessel operator must write a complete and accurate record of longline catch, effort and other data on a NMFS Western Pacific Daily Longline Fishing logsheet for each longline set, within 24 hours after completion of each fishing day, and maintain the record on board the vessel. The vessel operator must submit the completed and signed logsheet to the NOAA Fisheries Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center (PIFSC) within 72 hours of returning to port. Logbooks are available from PIFSC (see contact information). If you engage in non-longline fishing activity, you may be required to report that activity on State of Hawaii fishing report forms (contact Hawaii Division of Aquatic Resources).
- 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 available from PIFSC.

¹ *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 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.

- 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 (in Silver Spring, MD) within 48 hours of the end of the trip. Forms available from PIRO.
- 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. Please contact the NOAA Office for Law Enforcement for information and installation (see contact information).
- Vessel Identification. Display the vessel's official number on both sides of the deckhouse or hull and on an appropriate weather deck in block numbers at least 18 inches tall for vessels 65 feet long or longer, or 10 inches tall for all other vessels. The markings must be clearly visible in a contrasting color to the background.
 - Starting February 22, 2010, vessels fishing on the high seas in the WCPFC Convention Area will be required to be identified per WCPFC requirements. See the separate compliance guide for Vessel Identification – Western Pacific Pelagic Fishing from the PIRO website for details (see Contact Information).
- Gear Identification. All longline buoys and floats must be marked with the vessel's official number (US Coast Guard documentation number or state/territory vessel registration number).

Notification Requirement and Observer Placement

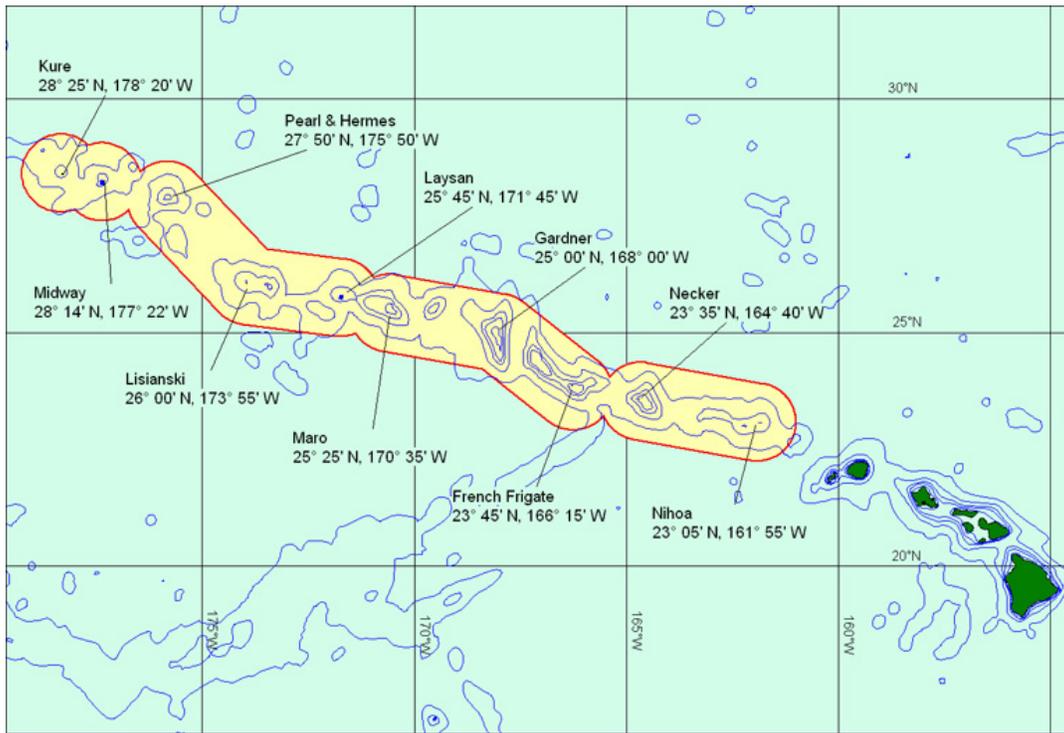
- The vessel owner or operator must notify the PIRO Observer Program contractor (see Contact Information) at least 72 hours before departure on a fishing trip (not including weekends or Federal holidays), and declare the intended trip type (shallow-set or deep-set). Once a trip type has been declared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

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
 - 46 loggerhead sea turtles
- The Regional Administrator will publish a notice in the *Federal Register* by January 31 of each year of the annual sea turtle interaction limits.
- If either of the two sea turtle interaction limits 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 interaction tally will be posted on the PIRO website(see Contact Information).
- If the annual limit for either turtle species is exceeded in any year, the annual limit for the following year will be reduced by the number by which the limit was exceeded.

Prohibited Areas

- 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 (please see map on the next page for center coordinates).



The Papahānaumokuākea (NWHI) Marine National Monument was established in August 2006, and the boundary of the Monument is similar to the longline Protected Species Zone, but there are differences. Commercial fishing is prohibited within the Monument. Fishing vessels may transit through the Monument, but entering and leaving the Monument require notifying the Monument office. Please 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 (see map on the next page).

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

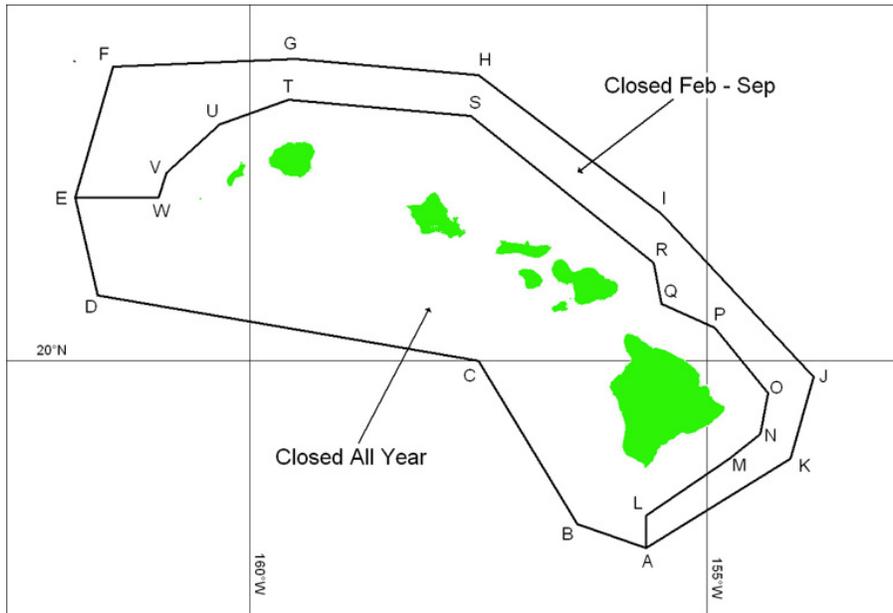
Point	N. Lat.	W. Lon.
A	18°05'	155°40'
B	18°20'	156°25'
C	20°00'	157°30'
D	20°40'	161°40'
E	21°40'	161°55'
F	23°00'	161°30'
G	23°05'	159°30'
H	22°55'	157°30'
I	21°30'	155°30'
J	19°50'	153°50'
K	19°00'	154°05'
A	18°05'	155°40'

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'

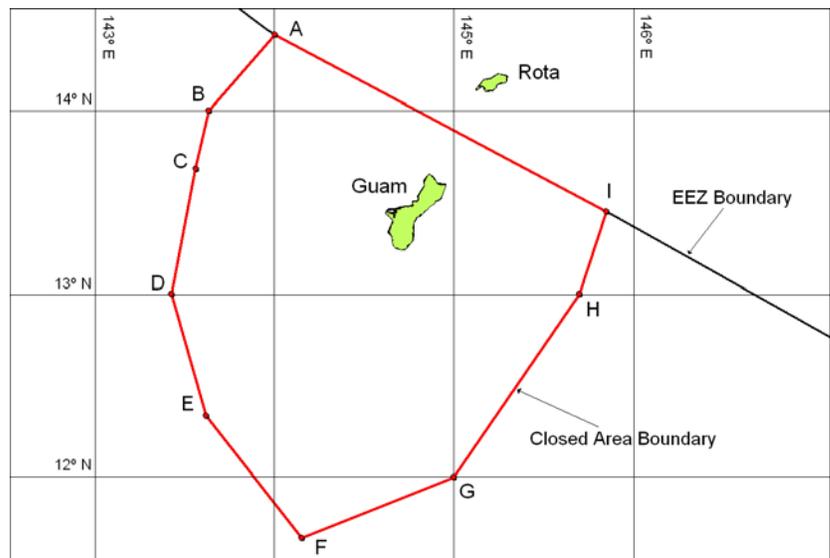
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Point	N. Lat.	W. Lon.
T	22°40'	159°35'
U	22°25'	160°20'
V	21°55'	160°55'
W	21°40'	161°00'
E	21°40'	161°55'
D	20°40'	161°40'
C	20°00'	157°30'
B	18°20'	156°25'
A	18°05'	155°40'



- **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 Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument, Rose Atoll Marine National Monument, and the Islands Unit of the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument. See the Monument proclamation 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.
- Owners and operators who have never been certified must attend a classroom workshop before taking the online course. After the initial classroom session, *owners* may take the online course indefinitely. *Operators* (captains) may take the online course for two years in a row before being required to take a classroom course, as a review, to show they understand protected species handling techniques. In other words, *operators* must take a classroom course every three years.
- PIRO will issue a PSW certificate, valid for one year, to anyone who completes the entire workshop. The certificate can be renewed at any time before the expiration date.
- 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 operator of a permitted vessel engaged in longline fishing must have a valid PSW certificate (or a readable copy) in his/her name, on board the vessel.

Sea Turtle Handling and Mitigation Measures

- Vessel owners and operators must follow specific guidelines for handling, dehooking, resuscitating, and releasing sea turtles that interact with longline fishing gear. Refer to the sea turtle handling guidelines provided at the PSW. If there is a NOAA Fisheries observer on board, the observer will take charge of handling of hooked sea turtles, with the assistance of the vessel crew.
- The vessel owner and operator must have the following turtle handling/dehooking gear on board the vessel:
 - 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
 - Set of three canine mouth gags
 - Set of two sturdy canine chew bones
 - Set of two rope loops covered with hose
 - Hank of rope
 - Set of four PVC splice couplings
 - Large avian oral speculum (to be used to hold a turtle's mouth open and control the head with one hand while removing a hook with the other)

Seabird Handling and Mitigation Measures

- You must handle and release hooked or entangled seabirds in a way that maximizes their survival. Follow the seabirds handling guidelines provided at the PSW.
- Follow additional requirements for special handling of a short-tailed albatross. These guidelines are issued at the PSW.
- Additional requirements are listed on the next page.

List of Requirements for Seabird and Sea Turtle Mitigation and Handling

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 Requirement A applies everywhere to vessels on a deep-set trip. If you are on a deep-set trip north of 23° N. latitude, both Deep-Set Requirements A and B apply. If you are on a shallow-set trip, then the Shallow-set Requirements apply everywhere.

Deep-Set
<i>A. Required Everywhere</i>
Carry and use line clipper, dip net, and dehooker (see Sea Turtle Handling and Mitigation Measures for handling/dehooking gear)
Float lines at least 20 m (65 ft 7 in) or longer on board
Minimum of 15 branch lines between any two floats, except for basket gear, which has a minimum of 10 branch lines between any two floats
No light sticks (light-emitting devices) on board
No more than ten (10) swordfish landed or possessed on a deep-set fishing trip

Shallow-Set
<i>Required Everywhere</i>
Carry and use line clipper, dip net, and dehooker (see Sea Turtle Handling and Mitigation Measures for handling/dehooking gear)
Must use 18/0 or larger circle hooks (no smaller than 50 mm (1.97 in) outer diameter) with hook offset of zero to 10°
Must use mackerel-type bait – no squid

<i>B. Additional Requirements when Fishing North of 23° N. Latitude</i>
Use 1) or 2)
1) Side-set
Mainline deployed as far forward as possible from port or starboard side, at least 1 m (3 ft 3 in) from stern
If line shooter used, mount as far forward as possible, at least 1 m from stern
Branch lines must have 45 g (1.6 oz) weight within 1 m of each hook
When seabirds are present, deploy gear so hooks remain submerged
Deploy a bird curtain (see 50 CFR 665 for details)

<i>In Addition:</i>
Use 3) or 4)
3) Side-set
Mainline deployed as far forward as possible from port or starboard side, at least 1 m (3 ft 3 in) from stern
If line shooter used, mount as far forward as possible, at least 1 m from stern
Branch lines must have 45 g (1.6 oz) weight within 1 m of each hook
When seabirds are present, deploy gear so hooks remain submerged
Deploy a bird curtain (see 50 CFR 665 for details)

2) Alternative to side-setting (i.e., stern-setting)
Strategic Offal Discharge - <i>When birds are present</i> , discharge fish, fish parts, or spent bait while setting or hauling, on opposite side of the vessel
Retain sufficient quantities of fish, fish parts, or spent bait between sets of longline gear for strategic offal discharge
Remove all hooks from fish, fish parts, or spent bait prior to strategic offal discharge
Remove bill and liver from any swordfish, sever head from trunk and split in half vertically, and periodically discharge butchered heads and livers for strategic offal discharge
When using basket-style gear, ensure mainline is set slack
Use completely-thawed bait and dye all bait to match NOAA Fisheries-issued color control card
Maintain a minimum of two cans of blue dye on board vessel
Use a line shooter
Branch lines must have 45 g weight within 1 m of each hook

4) Alternative to side-setting (i.e., stern-setting)
Strategic Offal Discharge - <i>When birds are present</i> , discharge fish, fish parts, or spent bait while setting or hauling, on opposite side of the vessel
Retain sufficient quantities of fish, fish parts, or spent bait between sets of longline gear for strategic offal discharge
Remove all hooks from fish, fish parts, or spent bait prior to strategic offal discharge
Remove bill and liver from any swordfish, sever head from trunk and split in half vertically, and periodically discharge butchered heads and livers for strategic offal discharge
When using basket-style gear, ensure mainline is set slack
Use completely-thawed bait and dye all bait to match NOAA Fisheries-issued color control card
Maintain a minimum of two cans of blue dye on board vessel
Deploy set at least 1 hour after sunset and complete deployment before sunrise, using minimum vessel lights necessary for navigation and safety

Marine Mammal Handling and Release

Recommended guidelines for handling of marine mammals are provided at the PSW. After any accidental marine mammal interaction, the animal must be carefully handled while minimizing 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. Submit the MMAP Mortality/Injury Reporting Form to NOAA Fisheries to report any interactions with marine mammals.

Shark Finning and Landings

- You may not remove the fins, including the tail, from a shark and dispose of the carcass (body of the shark) at sea.
- 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, and the Small-Entity Compliance Guide on the Implementation of the Shark Finning Prohibition Act.)

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, (808) 587-0100 general
Fax: (808) 587-0115
Web: 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: papahānaumokuākea.gov
Email: nwhi.notifications@noaa.gov (notification)

About 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
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