



NOAA
FISHERIES

Key changes in the PIRO Observer Program

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Outline

1. Changes to data collection forms to incorporate new gear requirements from the Take Reduction Plan
2. Changes to the Observer Field Manual
3. Additional training requirements for observers
4. Other TRT Recommendations implemented by the Observer Program

Changes to Observer Forms

Gear Configuration Form

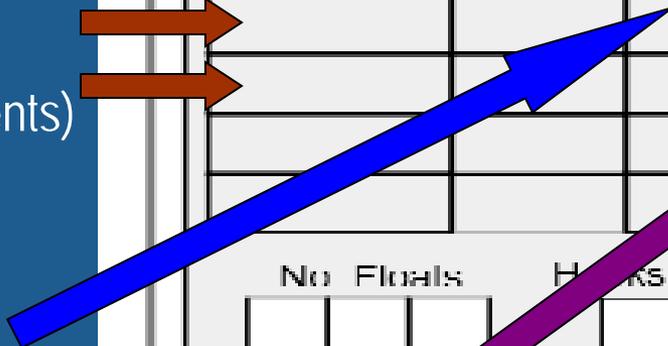
1- Changes to hook types listed on forms



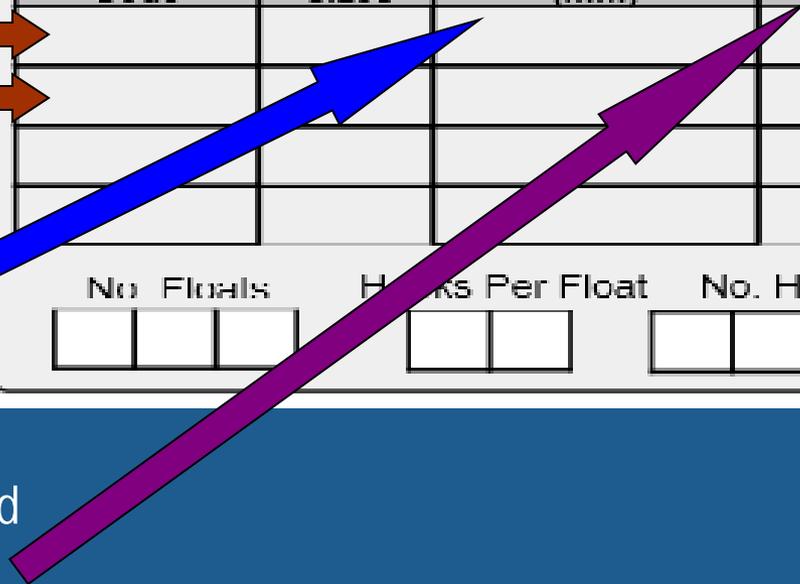
2- Multiple lines for hook types and sizes (no longer in comments)



3- Hook Diameters recorded for each individual hook



4- Percentage of each hook type recorded (no longer recorded in comment section)



Hooks/Floats

06 Other
08 Offset Round Circle
09 Offset Flat Circle

Hook Characteristics

Hook Type Code	Hook Size	Hook Diameter (mm)	Hook %

No. Floats Hooks Per Float No. Hooks Set

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Changes to the Observer Field Manual

Form Comments (Marine Mammal Biological Data Form)

- Added list of specific questions in manual, prompts on form
 - Provides guidance on data collection
 - Standardizes information recorded during interaction
 - Insures specific info requested by end users is collected at time of incident

Comments

1. *Duration*-how long was the observed part of the interaction? Did you observe the entire interaction? How long did it take to pull the animal along-side the vessel, and how long was it handled there?
2. *Distance*- How far was the animal from the vessel when 1st sighted? Was the animal primarily at the surface? If not, approximately how many times did you see the animal surface?
3. *Hook location*- If hooking location is not clear, detail its likely locations. What prevented you from seeing the hook location?
4. *End*-.How did the interaction end? Did the line break? Was it cut? Where was it cut?
5. *DNA*-Did you attempt to collect a sample?
6. *Other MM*-Were there other marine mammals in the area during the interaction? What kind? How many? What were they doing?
7. *Depredation*- Did you notice any MM damage on catch or bait during the haul?

Gear Comments - Describe in detail any boxes you checked on the front of the form.

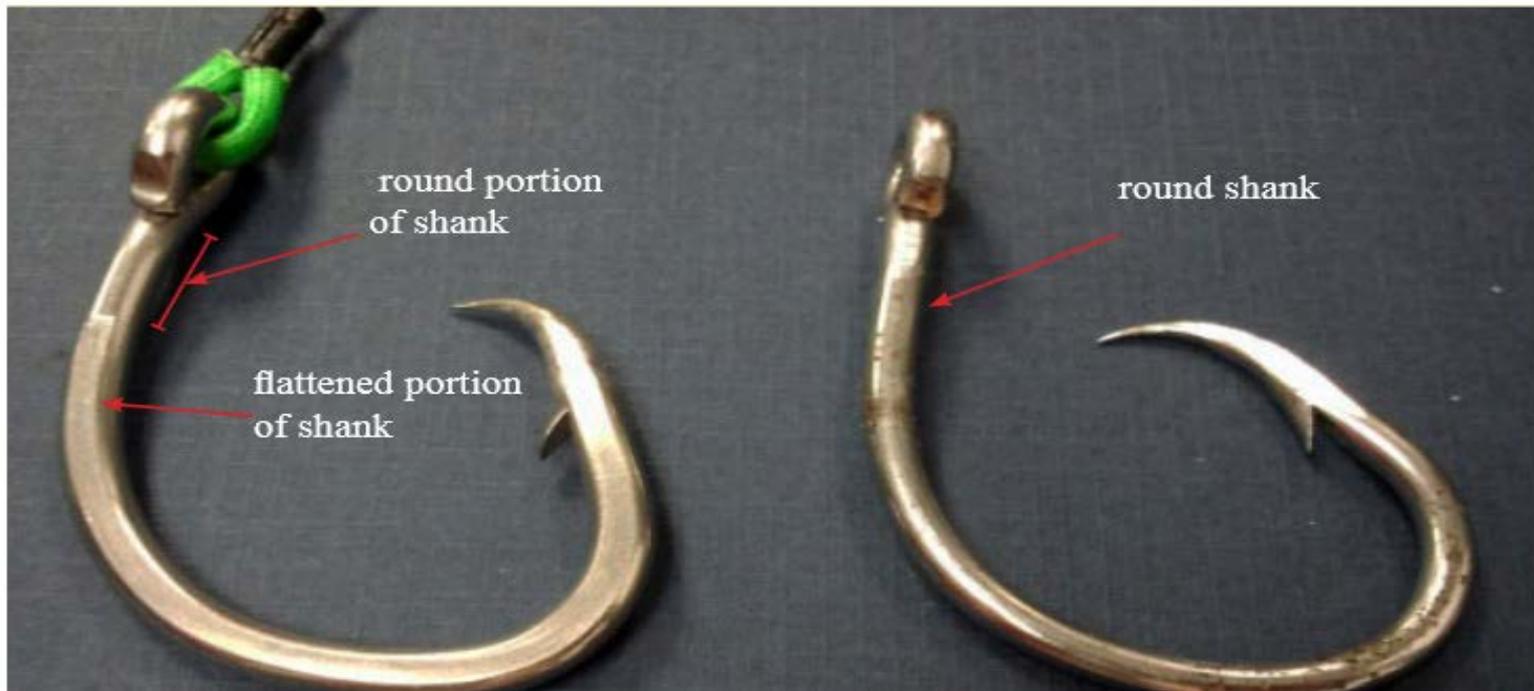
1. *Line break*-Did you measure the remaining branchline after it broke/was cut, to determine how much was left on the animal, or did you estimate it?
2. *Hook condition*- Could you verify the hook type/size associated with this interaction? Did the hook straighten or break during this interaction?
3. *Dehooking*- Was an attempt made to dehook the animal? With what equipment?
4. *Haul Gear*- did you notice any broken gear or straightened hooks on this haul?



Changes to the Observer Field Manual

New instructions for recording hook diameters

Hook Diameter (mm)-Measure the round hook diameter somewhere along the fully round portion of the shank of the hook for 5 of each type and size of hook. The predominant measurement will be the number you record in this field, with the remaining measurements recorded in the comments section. This means that if you have 14/0 offset circle hooks, 15/0 offset circle hooks, you will need to measure 10 hook diameters. The point you choose must be free from defects or deformations, and must be fully round. Sometimes this may be a very small portion of the hook. If you have difficulty collecting this measurement, or are unsure of your measurement, take a picture of the problem, and try to bring the hook back into the office.



Additional training requirements for observers

Marine Mammal Identification Refresher Protocol

- Course designed to enhance skills in marine mammal ID
- Must be completed successfully annually
- Focuses on cetacean species known to interact with Hawaii longline gear



Other TRT Recommendations implemented by the Observer Program

- Retention of gear related to marine mammal interactions
- Recovery of tissue samples from gear (Shallow Set Risso's Dolphin interaction)
- Provide better photographic equipment (testing GoPro cameras)

