



NOAA
FISHERIES

Pacific Islands
Regional Office

Considering Exemptions from the TRP: Questions for Discussion

May 30, 2013



TRP Purpose and Scope – 50 CFR 229.37(a)

Purpose of regulations

- “to reduce mortality and serious injury of the Hawaii Pelagic and Hawaii Insular stocks of false killer whales in the Hawaii-based deep-set and shallow-set pelagic longline fisheries”

Scope:

- “vessel owners and operators, and vessels registered for use with Hawaii longline limited access permits”

Exemptions for research?

- Should exemptions from TRP regulations be available for research associated with Hawaii longline fishing?
 - How is “research” defined?
 - What types of research would be considered?
 - False killer whale bycatch and/or depredation reduction research
 - Other protected species bycatch and/or depredation reduction research
 - Other

Other exemptions?

- Should exemptions from TRP regulations be available for any other reason?
 - E.g., longline fishing associated with a Community Development Plan

Bounding Exemptions

- Should exemptions be available from any/all TRP regulations, or only from particular requirements?
 - E.g., allow exemptions from gear requirements but not area closures
- Should there be specific additional criteria for exemptions from the SEZ trigger?
 - E.g., research objectives must directly support TRP goals or must be identified in the Draft TRP as a priority project

Exemption process

- What would an exemption process look like?
 - Proposal submission requirements, timeline, approvals, monitoring/reporting, etc.
 - Regulations vs. policy