

HI Shortline Fishery

Fishing gear type: Longline/set line

Current category: Category II*

Basis for current classification on the LOF: Based on analogy with the Category II HI shallow-set longline and Category I HI deep-set longline fisheries. The fishing gear, methods, areas fished, and target species are similar.

Current list of marine mammal species/stocks injured/killed: None documented.

Estimated number of current participants: 11

Take Reduction Teams/Plans that affect this fishery: None.

Year added to the LOF: 2010

Category when originally listed: Category II

Basis for original classification on the LOF: This fishery was added to the LOF as a Category II based on the fishing gear, methods, areas fished, and targets species, which are similar to the Category II “HI shallow-set (swordfish target) longline” fishery and the Category I “HI deep-set (tuna target) longline” fishery. Also, NMFS received anecdotal reports of interactions with marine mammals and this fishery.

Estimated number of participants when originally listed: 11

Past names, if any: None.

Gear description/method for fishing: The gear style is designed specifically to target the aggregating fish species over seamount structures. The primary gear type used is a horizontal main line (monofilament) less than 1 nmi long, and includes two baskets of approximately 50 hooks each. The gear is set before dawn and has a short soak time, with the gear retrieved about two hours after it is set. This fishery has no seasonal component and may operate year-round. Participation in this fishery expanded from 5 to 11 vessels from 2003–2008, with an average of 135,757 lbs of fish landed each year. In 2008, 104,152 lbs of fish were landed.

Target species: Bigeye tuna or the lustrous pomfret.

Spatial/temporal distribution of effort: This fishery operates only within the Hawaiian Islands EEZ. The fishery was developed to target these fish species when they concentrate over the summit of Cross Seamount (290 km (180 mi) south of the State of Hawaii).

Levels of observer coverage each year[†]: There is no reporting system in place. However, there are anecdotal reports of interactions off the north side of Maui, but the species and extent of interactions are unknown.

Management and regulations: There are no specific fishing permits issued for this fishery. However, all persons with a State of Hawaii Commercial Marine License (CML) may participate in any fishery, including this fishery.

History of Changes on the LOF

No changes as of 2010.

* The fishery is classified by analogy to other gear types or fisheries that are known to cause mortality or serious injury of marine mammals.

[†] Observer coverage levels include the latest information reported in the most current final Stock Assessment Reports (SAR).