

Appendix 4

Protected Species Conservation

Through an amendment to the Bottomfish and Seamount Groundfish Fishery Management Plan established under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, mandatory observers are required aboard the Hawaii-based bottomfish vessels in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI).

The program is responsible for fielding observers to obtain data on incidental protected species take and collect fishing effort data. The observers document interactions of all protected species, tallies by species of the fishes that are kept and discarded and processes selected specimens for life history information.

The Pacific Islands Region in Hawaii receives observer data to calculate official estimates and produce technical reports. The Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center receives biological samples for analysis.

The following report is from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Pacific Islands Regional Office (PIRO) Pacific Islands Regional Observer Program.

Source: NMFS PIRO (<http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/pir>)

Pacific Islands Regional Observer Program
 Bottomfish Annual Status Report
 January 1, 2005 – December 31, 2005
 Pacific Islands Regional Office
 National Marine Fisheries Service
 January 26, 2006

The Hawaii-based bottomfish fishery has been monitored under a mandatory observer program since October 2003. Beginning October 2003, 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 Bottomfish Observer Data and may be revised after final data editing has been completed. The following table summarizes percent observer coverage for vessel departures, vessels arriving with observers, and protected species interactions for vessels arriving with observers during 2005.

Vessel Departures – 2005 (January 1, 2005 – December 31, 2005)

Departures	52
Departures with observers	13
Observer coverage 2005	25.0 %

Vessels Arriving with Observers – 2005

Departures with observers in 2005	13
Observers departing in 2004 arriving in 2005	0
Observers departing in 2005 arriving in 2006	0
Total vessels arriving with observers 2005	13

Protected Species Interactions – 2005

Vessels arriving with observers – 2005	13
Trips with turtle interactions	0
Trips without turtle interactions	13
Trips with marine mammal interactions	0
Trips without marine mammal interactions	13
Trips with seabird interactions	2
Trips without seabird interactions	11

Total Sea Turtles Interactions 0

Total Marine Mammal Interactions 0

Total Seabird Interactions 3

<i>Released injured</i>	
Red Footed Booby	1*
Brown Booby	1*
Laysan Albatross	1*

Note: The percent of observer coverage is based on vessel departures. Protected species interactions are based on vessel arrival. For the purpose of this report, an animal that becomes hooked or entangled is an interaction.

* Protected species interactions occurred during trolling operations.