

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE****National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Pacific Islands Regional Office

1845 Wasp Blvd., Bldg. 176

Honolulu, Hawaii 96818

(808) 725-5000 • Fax (808) 725-5215

MEMORANDUM FOR: The 2023 Biological Opinion for the Authorization of the Hawaii Deep-Set Longline Fishery Record Files

FROM: Dawn Golden, Assistance Regional Administrator, Protected Resources Division

SUBJECT: Revision of Term and Condition 1.b. in the May 23, 2023 Biological Opinion for the Authorization of the Hawaii Deep-Set Longline Fishery

The 2023 Hawaii deep-set longline fishery biological opinion has the following reasonable and prudent measure (RPM) and implementing terms and condition (T&C) regarding training crew in protected species handling:

RPM: NMFS shall require that ESA-listed species incidentally caught alive be released from fishing gear in a manner that minimizes injury and the likelihood of further gear entanglement or entrapment to increase their post-release survivorship.

T&C: To reduce post-release mortality, within two years NMFS SFD shall require species handling training for crew members and at a minimum have one trained person on deck who directs and oversees activities of the vessel when retrieving fishing gear. Training shall include best practices identified in 1.a above¹.

Upon revisiting this T&C, we believe the language should be refined to achieve our desired outcome for improved protected species handling and reduced post-interaction mortality throughout the longline fleets. Specifically, we think an effective revision would require at least one trained crewmember in addition to the vessel operator, and that one of those trained personnel will be available when a protected species is sighted.

Given these issues, we are revising the T&C for the biological opinion as follows:

T&C: To reduce post-release mortality, within two years NMFS SFD shall provide protected species handling training to all crew members. When on a fishing trip, each vessel will carry at least two persons with approved protected species handling training. In addition, whenever fishing gear is being retrieved and an ESA-listed species interaction occurs, there will be at least one trained person on deck to direct the proper handling and release of that animal. Training shall include best practices identified in 1.a above¹.

¹ The referenced T&C 1.a. is: NMFS SFD shall implement measures to minimize the amount of trailing gear left on ESA-listed species to the maximum extent practicable to reduce the amount of injury and harm, the likelihood of further gear entanglement or entrapment, and improve the post-release mortality of ESA-listed species. This may include using new technologies once proven, such as fighting lines (i.e., additional gear that reduces tension on the branchline), line cutting devices, and other gear modifications.





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MEMORANDUM FOR: The 2023 Biological Opinion for the Authorization of the American Samoa Longline Fishery Record Files

FROM: Dawn Golden, Assistance Regional Administrator, Protected Resources Division

SUBJECT: Revision of Term and Condition 1.b. in the May 15, 2023 Biological Opinion for the Authorization of the American Samoa Longline Fishery

The 2023 American Samoa longline fishery biological opinion has the following reasonable and prudent measure (RPM) and implementing terms and condition (T&C) regarding training crew in protected species handling:

RPM: NMFS shall require that ESA-listed species incidentally caught alive be released from fishing gear in a manner that minimizes injury and the likelihood of further gear entanglement or entrapment to increase their post-release survivorship.

T&C: To reduce post-release mortality, within two years NMFS SFD shall require species handling training for crew members and at a minimum have one trained person on deck who directs and oversees activities of the vessel when retrieving fishing gear. Training shall include best practices identified in 1.a above¹.

Upon revisiting this T&C, we believe the language should be refined to achieve our desired outcome for improved protected species handling and reduced post-interaction mortality throughout the longline fleets. Specifically, we think an effective revision would require at least one trained crewmember in addition to the vessel operator, and that one of those trained personnel will be available when a protected species is sighted.

Given these issues, we are revising the T&C for the biological opinion as follows:

T&C: To reduce post-release mortality, within two years NMFS SFD shall provide protected species handling training to all crew members. When on a fishing trip, each vessel will carry at least two persons with approved protected species handling training. In addition, whenever fishing gear is being retrieved and an ESA-listed species interaction occurs, there will be at least one trained person on deck to direct the proper handling and release of that animal. Training shall include best practices identified in 1.a above¹.

¹ The referenced T&C 1.a. is: NMFS SFD shall implement measures to minimize the amount of trailing gear left on ESA-listed species to the maximum extent practicable to reduce the amount of injury and harm, the likelihood of further gear entanglement or entrapment, and improve the post-release mortality of ESA-listed species. This may include using new technologies once proven, such as fighting lines (i.e., additional gear that reduces tension on the branchline), line cutting devices, and other gear modifications.





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MEMORANDUM FOR: The 2024 Supplemental Biological Opinion for the Authorization of the Hawaii Shallow-set Longline Fishery Record Files

FROM: Dawn Golden, Assistance Regional Administrator, Protected Resources Division

SUBJECT: Revision of Term and Condition 1.c. in the March 12, 2024 Supplemental Biological Opinion for the Authorization of the Hawaii Shallow-set Longline Fishery

The 2024 Hawaii Shallow-set longline fishery supplemental biological opinion has the following reasonable and prudent measure (RPM) and implementing terms and condition (T&C) regarding training crew in protected species handling:

RPM: NMFS shall require that ESA-listed species incidentally caught alive be released from fishing gear in a manner that minimizes injury and the likelihood of further gear entanglement or entrapment to increase their post-release survivorship.

T&C: To reduce post-release mortality, within two years NMFS SFD shall require species handling training for crew members and at a minimum have one trained person on deck who directs and oversees activities of the vessel when retrieving fishing gear. Training shall include best practices identified in 1.b above¹.

Upon revisiting this T&C, we believe the language should be refined to achieve our desired outcome for improved protected species handling and reduced post-interaction mortality throughout the longline fleets. Specifically, we think an effective revision would require at least one trained crewmember in addition to the vessel operator, and that one of those trained personnel will be available when a protected species is sighted.

Given these issues, we are revising the T&C for the biological opinion as follows:

T&C: To reduce post-release mortality, within two years NMFS SFD shall provide protected species handling training to all crew members. When on a fishing trip, each vessel will carry at least two persons with approved protected species handling training. In addition, whenever fishing gear is being retrieved and an ESA-listed species interaction occurs, there will be at least one trained person on deck to direct the proper handling and release of that animal. Training shall include best practices identified in 1.b above¹.

¹ The referenced T&C 1.b. is: NMFS SFD shall implement measures to minimize the amount of trailing gear left on ESA-listed species to the maximum extent practicable to reduce the amount of injury and harm, the likelihood of further gear entanglement or entrapment, and improve the post-release mortality of loggerhead sea turtles. This may include using new technologies once developed and proven.

