



NOAA
FISHERIES
Pacific Islands
Regional Office

Regulation Summary

Western Pacific General Longline Fishing

Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, and Pacific Remote Island Areas

(revised November 2018)

This guide summarizes regulations for vessels that use pelagic longline gear to catch, land, or transship management unit species in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) around Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), and the Pacific Remote Island Areas (PRIA).

Longline gear means fishing gear consisting of a mainline longer than 1 nm suspended horizontally in the water column, anchored, floating, or attached to a vessel, and from which branch or dropper lines with hooks are attached.

For the complete official fishing regulations, refer to Title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Parts **229**, **300**, **404**, **600**, and **665**. Regulations are subject to change, and any discrepancies between this summary and the regulations will be resolved in favor of the regulations published in the *Federal Register* and the CFR.

**For more information or to obtain
additional copies of this guide
please contact:**

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NMFS Pacific Islands Regional Office
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Honolulu, HI 96818

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Website: www.fisheries.noaa.gov

Fishing Permits and Certificates

If you use longline gear to catch tunas, swordfish, and other fish listed as management unit species in the Fishery Ecosystem Plan for Pelagic Fisheries of the Western Pacific (see pg. 6), or land or transship longline-caught pelagic fish, in federal waters of the EEZ around Guam, CNMI, or PRIA, you must have the following permits and certificates, and they must be current and on board the vessel. Please visit the [NOAA Fisheries permits page](#) and download fishing permit applications or contact PIRO to obtain Federal permits or certificates (see Contact Information).

Western Pacific General Longline Permit: Permit registered to the vessel in the name of the vessel owner. *Expires on March 3rd of each calendar year.*

- Note 1: A vessel registered to an American Samoa or Hawaii longline limited access permit may also fish using longline gear and land or transship pelagic fish caught using longline gear in Guam, CNMI, and PRIA.
- Note 2: The Western Pacific General Longline permit is also valid for landing pelagic fish in American Samoa if the fish were caught using longline gear outside the EEZ around American Samoa.

High Seas Fishing Compliance Act Permit: You must have this permit if you fish outside the EEZ (outside 200 nm from shore).

Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Convention Area Endorsement: A supplemental registration is required to fish in the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Convention Area.

Marine Mammal Authorization Program Certificate: Certificate issued by PIRO and registered to the vessel owner. The certificate is necessary if you intend to fish in international waters with High Seas Fishing Compliance Act permits. *Expires on March 3rd of each calendar year.*

Protected Species Workshop Certificate: Certificate issued in the name of the vessel operator. (See Protected Species Workshop) *Expires one year from date of issuance.*

Western Pacific Receiving Vessel Permit: A receiving vessel of the United States must be registered for use with a valid receiving vessel permit if that vessel is used to land or transship, shoreward of the outer boundary of the EEZ around American Samoa, Hawaii, Guam, CNMI, or PRIA, any western Pacific pelagic management unit species harvested with longline gear. *Expires March 3rd of each calendar year.*

Reporting, Monitoring, and Vessel and Gear Identification

NMFS Western Pacific Daily Longline Fishing Log: The vessel operator must complete a log sheet within 24 hours of the end of each fishing day, and maintain the log sheet on board the vessel. The vessel operator must submit the completed and signed logsheet to NMFS Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center (PIFSC) within 72 hours of returning to port. Logbooks are available from PIFSC (see Contact Information).

NMFS Transshipment Log Report: Vessel operators with a Western Pacific Receiving Vessel Permit must submit a NMFS transshipment log report for each day of transshipment activity to PIFSC within 72 hours of each landing of Pacific pelagic management unit species. Logbooks are available from PIFSC.

Marine Mammal Authorization Program Mortality/Injury Reporting Form: If any marine mammal interaction (hooking or entanglement) occurs, the vessel operator must complete and mail this pre-addressed, postage paid form to NMFS within 48 hours of the end of the trip. Forms are available from PIRO (see Contact Information).

Gear Identification: Your vessel's official number (U.S. Coast Guard documentation number or state/territory vessel registration number) must be displayed on every longline buoy and float. Markings must be legible and permanent, and must be of a color that contrasts with the background material.

Vessel Identification: Your international radio call sign or official number must be displayed on the hull and deck. For detailed marking requirements, view the [Compliance Guide for Vessel Identification Requirements for Western Pacific Pelagic Fishing](#).

American Samoa and South Pacific Longline Gear Requirements

To reduce interactions with green sea turtles, permitted U.S. longline vessels that are longer than 40 feet (12.2 meters) must meet the following conditions when fishing south of the Equator (see [50 CFR 665.813](#)).

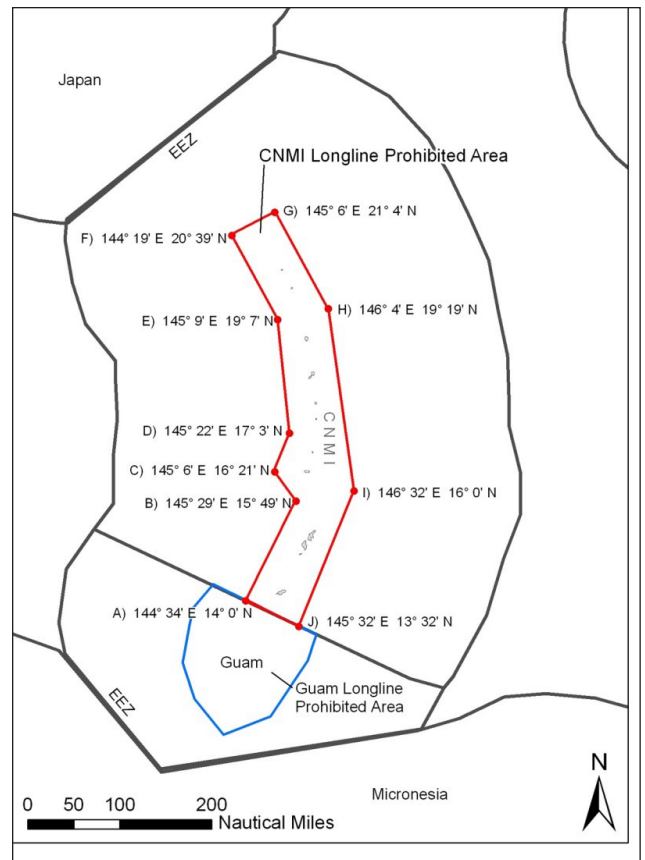
- Each float line must be at least 30 meters (m) long.
- There must be at least 70 m of blank mainline (without hooks attached) before and after all floats with hooks between them.
- When hooks are deployed, there must be at least 15 branch lines attached between each float.
- Each branch line must be at least 10 m long.

You may not keep or land more than 10 swordfish during a fishing trip.

Prohibited Fishing Areas

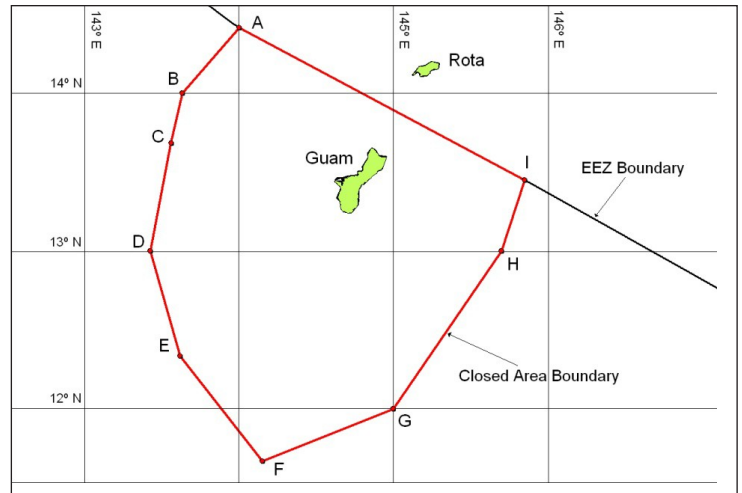
- **Marine National Monuments:** Commercial fishing is prohibited in the Islands Unit of the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument, the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument, and Rose Atoll Marine National Monument. Generally, commercial fishing is not allowed within 50 nm of the monuments. Contact PIRO for more details.
- **CNMI Longline Fishing Prohibited Area:** Longline fishing is prohibited in the area bounded by straight lines connecting the following points in order from A to A:

Point	N. Lat.	E. Lon.
A	14° 00'	144° 34'
B	15° 49'	145° 29'
C	16° 21'	145° 06'
D	17° 03'	145° 22'
E	19° 07'	145° 09'
F	20° 39'	144° 19'
G	21° 04'	145° 06'
H	19° 19'	146° 04'
I	16° 00'	146° 32'
J	13° 32'	145° 32'
A	14° 00'	144° 34'



- **Guam Longline Fishing Prohibited Area:** Longline fishing is prohibited in the area bounded by straight lines connecting the following points in order from A to I:

Point	N. Lat.	E. Lon.
A	14° 25'	144° 00'
B	14° 00'	143° 38'
C	13° 41'	143° 33' 33"
D	13° 00'	143° 25' 30"
E	12° 20'	143° 37'
F	11° 40'	144° 09'
G	12° 00'	145° 00'
H	13° 00'	145° 42'
I	13° 27'	145° 51'



- **No-Take Marine Protected Areas:**
 - Longline fishing is prohibited shoreward of the 50-fathom curve at Jarvis, Howland, and Baker Islands, and Kingman Reef.
 - Longline fishing is prohibited shoreward of the 50-fathom curve around Rose Atoll in American Samoa.

Protected Species Workshop

Each year, owners and operators of longline vessels registered to a Western Pacific General Longline must attend and be certified in the Protected Species Workshop (PSW) conducted by PIRO on mitigation, handling, and release techniques for sea turtles, seabirds and marine mammals.

- The PSW is offered in person and online.
- PIRO will issue a PSW Certificate, valid for one year. The certificate can be renewed before it expires.
- The owner of a vessel registered for use under a Western Pacific General Longline must maintain and have on file a valid PSW certificate to maintain or renew their permit.
- The captain must have a valid PSW Certificate (or a readable copy) in his/her name, on board the vessel.

Sea Turtle, Seabird, and Marine Mammal Safe Handling and Mitigation Measures

You are required to carry and use specific equipment for handling and releasing sea turtles, seabirds, and marine mammals, and/or to follow specific procedures if you hook or entangle these animals. Please refer to the Protected Species Identification, Handling and Release Guidelines placards provided at the Protected Species Workshop. These placards, the quick guide to gear setting regulations, the short-tailed albatross recovery data form, and other information are provided at the PSW.

SEA TURTLES

You are required to carry and use specific equipment for handling and releasing sea turtles and to follow specific procedures if you hook or entangle a sea turtle. View the [sea turtle compliance guide](#).

Vessels with freeboard of 3 ft (0.91 m) or less must carry line clippers capable of cutting fishing line or leaders within approximately 1 ft (0.3 m) of the eye of an embedded hook, and wire or bolt cutters capable of cutting through hooks. Freeboard is the distance between the vessel's deck and the sea surface.

- Vessels with freeboard more than 3 ft (0.91 m) must have the following turtle handling/dehooking gear on board:
 1. Long-handled line clipper
 2. Long-handled dip net
 3. Long-handled dehooker for ingested hooks (may substitute for item 4)
 4. Long-handled dehooker for external hooks
 5. Long-handled device to pull an “inverted V”
 6. Car tire
 7. Short-handled dehooker with bite guard for ingested hooks (may substitute for item 8)
 8. Short-handled dehooker for external hooks
 9. Long-nose or needle-nose pliers
 10. Wire or bolt cutters
 11. Monofilament line cutters
 12. At least two of the following mouth openers and gags:
 - Block of hard wood
 - Large avian oral speculum
 - Set of two sturdy canine chew bones
 - Set of four PVC splice couplings
- Vessels that shallow-set north of the Equator must use:
 - Size 18/0 or larger circle hooks and, if the hook is offset, it must be offset by no more than 10°
 - Mackerel-type fish bait only (sardines, sanma, mackerel) – no squid

SEABIRDS

You are required to carry and use specific equipment for handling and releasing seabirds and to follow specific procedures if you hook or entangle a seabird. View the [seabird compliance guide](#).

MARINE MAMMALS

NMFS distributes recommended guidelines for handling of marine mammals at the PSW. Animals must be handled carefully to minimize further injury, and returned to the ocean unless directed otherwise by NMFS personnel, contractor, or otherwise authorized by a scientific research permit held by the operator. You must report marine mammal interactions on a *Marine Mammal Authorization Program Mortality/Injury Reporting Form* within 48 hours of the end of a fishing trip.

Shark Finning and Landings

- You may possess and land shark fins only if they are naturally attached to the corresponding shark carcass, meaning attached to the carcass through some portion of uncut skin.
- You may land a shark carcass only if its fins are naturally attached.
- You may transfer or receive fins between vessels at sea only if the fins are naturally attached to the corresponding carcass.
- While at sea, you may not remove any of the fins of a retained shark, including the tail.

Exception -- Silky and oceanic whitetip sharks in the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Convention Area:

- You may not retain or land any part of any silky shark or oceanic whitetip shark caught in the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Convention Area.
- You must release all silky and oceanic whitetip sharks as soon as possible after catching them, taking reasonable steps for releasing them carefully without compromising human safety.
- You must allow and assist in collecting samples from these sharks if an observer requests you to, and if it is safe.
- Please refer to the compliance guide *Fishing Restrictions related to the Oceanic Whitetip Shark, the Silky Shark and the Whale Shark*: <https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=NOAA-NMFS-2014-0086-0047>.

Pacific Pelagic Management Unit Species

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	
Tunas	Albacore	<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>
	Bigeye tuna	<i>Thunnus obesus</i>
	Kawakawa	<i>Euthynnus affinis</i>
	Pacific bluefin tuna	<i>Thunnus orientalis</i>
	Skipjack tuna	<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>
	Yellowfin tuna	<i>Thunnus albacares</i>
	Other tuna relatives	<i>Auxis</i> spp., <i>Scomber</i> spp., <i>Allothunus</i> spp.
Billfishes	Black marlin	<i>Istiompax indica</i>
	Pacific blue marlin	<i>Makaira nigricans</i>
	Sailfish	<i>Istiophorus platypterus</i>
	Shortbill spearfish	<i>Tetrapturus angustirostris</i>
	Striped marlin	<i>Kajikia audax</i>
	Swordfish	<i>Xiphias gladius</i>
Sharks	Bigeye thresher shark	<i>Alopias superciliosus</i>
	Blue shark	<i>Prionace glauca</i>
	Common thresher shark	<i>Alopias vulpinus</i>
	Longfin mako shark	<i>Isurus paucus</i>
	Oceanic whitetip shark	<i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i>
	Pelagic thresher shark	<i>Alopias pelagicus</i>
	Salmon shark	<i>Lamna ditropis</i>
	Shortfin mako shark	<i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i>
	Silky shark	<i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i>
Other pelagic species	Mahimahi, Dolphinfin	<i>Coryphaena</i> spp.
	Moonfish, Opah	<i>Lampris</i> spp.
	Oilfish	family Gempylidae
	Pomfret	family Bramidae
	Wahoo, Ono	<i>Acanthocybium solandri</i>
Squids	Diamondback squid	<i>Thysanoteuthis rhombus</i>
	Neon flying squid	<i>Ommastrephes bartramii</i>
	Purpleback flying squid	<i>Sthenoteuthis oualaniensis</i>

Contact Information

Fishing Permits, Certificates, MMAP Report Forms, Compliance Guides and Other Information

Sustainable Fisheries
NMFS Pacific Islands Regional Office
1845 Wasp Blvd., Bldg. 176
Honolulu, HI 96818
Phone: (808) 725-5190
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Email: piro-permits@noaa.gov
Web: www.fisheries.noaa.gov/permits-and-forms

Protected Species Workshop

NMFS Pier 38 Service Center
1139 N. Nimitz Hwy, Suite 220
Honolulu, HI 96817
Phone: (808) 944-2300
Email: piropsw@noaa.gov
Web: www.fisheries.noaa.gov/pacific-islands/commercial-fishing/pacific-islands-protected-species-workshops-0

Obtain or Submit Logbooks

NMFS Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center
1845 Wasp Blvd., Bldg. 176
Honolulu, HI 96818
Email: keith.bigelow@noaa.gov

Enforcement Information, or To Report a Violation

NOAA Office of Law Enforcement
1845 Wasp Blvd., Bldg. 176
Honolulu, HI 96818
Phone: (808) 725-6100
Confidential hotline: (800) 853-1964
Fax: (808) 725-6199
Web: www.fisheries.noaa.gov/topic/enforcement

Fishing in National Wildlife Refuges

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Pacific Remote Islands National Wildlife Refuge Manager
300 Ala Moana Blvd., Suite 5-231
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Honolulu, HI 96850
Phone: (808) 792-9550
Fax: (808) 792-9585
Web: www.fws.gov/pacificislandsrefuges

