

PACIFIC ISLANDS REGIONAL OBSERVER PROGRAM
AMERICAN SAMOA LONGLINE
ANNUAL STATUS REPORT
January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017
Pacific Islands Regional Office
National Marine Fisheries Service
February 7, 2018

The American Samoa pelagic longline fishery targeting tunas has been monitored under a mandatory observer program since March 2006. Beginning April 2006, branch personnel have conducted daily shoreside dock rounds in American Samoa 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 American Samoa Longline Observer Data and may be revised after final data editing has been completed. The following table summarizes the percent observer coverage for vessel departures, vessels arriving with observers, protected species interactions, and set and hook unit effort for vessels arriving with observers during 2017.

Vessel Departures - 2017 (January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017)	
Departures -----	65
Departures with observers -----	13
Observer coverage 2017 -----	20.0%
Vessels Arriving with Observers - 2017	
Departures with observers in 2017 -----	13
Observers departing in 2016 arriving in 2017 -----	0
Observers departing in 2017 arriving in 2018 -----	1
Total vessels arriving with observers - 2017 -----	12
Protected Species Interactions - 2017	
Vessels arriving with observers - 2017 -----	12
Trips with turtle interactions -----	6
Trips without turtle interactions -----	6
Trips with marine mammal interactions -----	2
Trips without marine mammal interactions -----	10
Trips with seabird interactions -----	0
Trips without seabird interactions -----	12
Total Sea Turtles Interactions -----	7
Released dead	
Green -----	4
Olive Ridley -----	2
Released injured	
Leatherback -----	1
Total Marine Mammal Interactions -----	2
Released injured	
Rough-toothed Dolphin -----	1
False Killer Whale -----	1
Total Seabird Interactions -----	0
Total Sets	447
Total Hooks Retrieved	1,271,803
Turtles per 1,000 Hooks	0.006
Seabirds per 1,000 Hooks	0.000
Marine Mammals per 1,000 Hooks	0.002

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