

**PACIFIC ISLANDS REGIONAL OBSERVER PROGRAM
AMERICAN SAMOA LONGLINE FISHERY - ANNUAL STATUS REPORT**

January 1 – December 31, 2018

Pacific Islands Regional Office
National Marine Fisheries Service
March 12, 2019

The National Marine Fisheries Service monitors the American Samoa pelagic longline fishery (targeting tunas) through a mandatory observer program. This report summarizes data for American Samoa fishing trips. It ensures prompt dissemination of American Samoa longline observer data, and may be revised after final data editing. 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 2018.

Vessel Departures - 2018 (January 1 - December 31, 2018)	
Departures	63
Departures with observers	11
Observer coverage 2018	17.5%
Vessels Arriving with Observers - 2018	
Departures with observers in 2018	11
Observers departing in 2017 arriving in 2018	1
Observers departing in 2018 arriving in 2019	3
Total vessels arriving with observers - 2018	9
Observed Protected Species Interactions - 2018	
Vessels arriving with observers - 2018	9
Trips with turtle interactions	5
Trips without turtle interactions	4
Trips with marine mammal interactions	2
Trips without marine mammal interactions	7
Trips with seabird interactions	0
Trips without seabird interactions	9
Total Sea Turtle Interactions	9
Released dead	
Green	4
Olive Ridley	2
Hawksbill	2
Released injured	
Leatherback	1
Total Marine Mammal Interactions	2
Released dead	
Rough-toothed Dolphin	1
Released injured	
False Killer Whale	1
Total Seabird Interactions	0
Total Sets	276
Total Hooks Retrieved	732,476
Turtles per 1,000 Hooks	0.012
Seabirds per 1,000 Hooks	0.000
Marine Mammals per 1,000 Hooks	0.003

Notes: 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 is hooked or entangled is considered an interaction.