



HAWAII PELAGIC LONGLINE FISHERY

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Pelagic Fishing - Mexico 1948



Marine Mammals – Pt. Mugu, CA 1967



Zephyr – Hawaii 2010



Pelagic Longline Fishery Challenges In Hawaii

- **Pelagic Target Species**

- Bigeye tuna quotas
- Yellowfin tuna quotas

- **Management Agencies**

- National
 - NMFS / FWS
 - WPRFMC
- International RFMO's
 - Eastern Pacific – IATTC
 - Western/Central Pacific – WCPFC

Longline Interactions with Protected Species in Hawaii

- **Sea Birds**

- Primarily black-footed & Laysan albatrosses

- **Sea Turtles**

- Loggerhead, leatherback & olive Ridley

- **Marine Mammals**

- False killer whales, pilot whales, Risso's dolphins

Working Towards Solutions

- Gear Modifications, training captains and owners, modifying fishing techniques
- **Sea Birds**
 - Interaction rates reduced about 87% since 2000
- **Sea Turtles**
 - Shallow set – 100% observer coverage, no observed mortalities since 2004

Working Towards Solutions

- **Marine Mammals**

- TRT convened early 2010
- TRP finished July 2010 and implemented December 28, 2012
- Gear modification rules implemented February 28, 2013

Working Towards Solutions

- **Marine Mammals**

- Increase releases, decrease MSI by making hooks the weakest part of the terminal gear
- Use of circle hooks only, 4.5 mm wire diameter or less
- Branch line monofilament, >2.0mm
- Handling and release training

Working Towards Solutions

- **Marine Mammals**
 - Results after 8 months:
 - One observed FKW interaction
 - 1 – non-MSI, hook opened, animal released, outside US EEZ
 - Compared to 2009 with 9 observed MSI interactions with FKW

Progress and Next Steps

- **Continue to fine tune the gear and training program until we are confident we have a workable solution.**



QUESTIONS?