



NOAA
FISHERIES

Pacific Islands
Regional Office

Protected
Resources Division

Overview of Protected Species Information Needs For

BYCATCH

PIFSC Protected Species Program Review

Honolulu, HI

July 2015

Bycatch

Management Drivers

ESA

- Sec. 4 – Recovery planning
- Sec. 7 – Mandate for federal fisheries (NMFS) to use authorities to further the conservation of protected species, and avoid increasing risk of extinction (jeopardizing) of protected species
- Sec. 10 – Incidental Take Permits for non-federal entities

MMPA

- Sec. 101 – Permits for incidental take of ESA-listed marine mammals in fisheries
- Sec. 118 – Authorize and control incidental take in fisheries (List of Fisheries, MMAP, take reduction plans)
- Sec. 112 – Regulations to carry out MMPA provisions (e.g., prevent harassment of spinner dolphins)
- Title IV – Marine mammal health and stranding response



Bycatch

Characterize effect of fisheries, including state and territory fisheries, on protected species

- Assess/quantify bycatch, including in unobserved fisheries if possible
- Assign fisheries-related injuries in animals reported through the stranding/disentanglement network to specific fisheries
- Continue efforts to characterize fishing gear associated with humpback entanglements, monk seal and turtle hookings
- Characterize risk of interactions between protected species and non-longline fisheries in Hawaii and territories, including severity of interactions
- Assist in developing measures to prevent/minimize/mitigate fishery interactions (e.g., Hawaiian monk seals, insular false killer whales, green sea turtles)
- Evaluate changing frequency/severity of interactions between protected species and fisheries as needed (e.g., leatherback sea turtles)

Questions?



Heather Vukelic