



NOAA
FISHERIES

Alaska Region

Marine Mammals and EM

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Marine Mammal Authorization Program (MMAP)

- Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) requires:
 - All fisheries to be listed in categories (I, II, III) according to level of mortality & serious injury (M/SI) in that fishery
- Category I has highest level of M/SI relative to health & stability of population. Category III have the lowest.
- Category I and II must be registered in MMAP to be authorized for lawful incidental marine mammal takes
- No Category I fisheries in Alaska for 2019

MMAP Continued- Category II Fishery

- Bering Sea pollock for 2019
- NMFS registers these permit holders with the MMAP
- Registration provides permit holders exemption from MMPA prohibition on taking marine mammals
- Does not exempt from prohibition on taking ESA listed marine mammals
- Permit holders in this fishery must:
 - Have a valid State of Alaska or Federal commercial fishery permit
 - Maintain MMAP Authorization Certificate aboard vessel
 - Report all injuries and mortalities within 48 hours, ***even if an observer is present***
 - Take an observer, if requested by NMFS

MMAP Continued- Category III Fishery

- Gulf of Alaska pollock for 2019
- Automatically exempted from incidental take prohibition
- No MMAP Authorization Certificate is required
- Does not exempt from prohibition on taking ESA listed marine mammals
- Permit holders in this fishery must:
 - Have a valid State of Alaska or Federal commercial fishery permit
 - Report all injuries and mortalities within 48 hours, ***even if an observer is present***

MMAP Continued- How to Report

- Must report within 48 hours of landing, ***even with an observer present***
- Personally liable if do not report
- Three options to report:
 - Complete the form enclosed with the certificate & mail
 - Download and complete a pdf form & mail
 - Complete online form & submit electronically
- Forms, certificates and more information can be found at:
<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/interactions/mmap/>

Marine Mammal – Observer Data Collection

- Recording takes of marine mammals is #1 data collection priority
- Observer collect data on date, time, species, condition of marine mammal, and describe of the interaction
- Observers also collect information about sightings, feeding on gear, lethal removals, deterrents used by the vessel, and collect specimen data, if possible

Examples of Marine Mammal Interaction Data

Length, viability, injury, specimen, tally data, measurements, bird observations, sample design, notes:

Marine Mammal Interaction
Haul 204 - Freshly dead mammal
in codend.

ID - Dall's Porpoise, Black, stocky
body, white belly, light dorsal fin

Sex - M

sp# specimen type

1 - DMSO SKIN Sample

2 - Deep Tissue Sample

3 - Photos - 5 pics

4 - Standard length - 223 cm

5 - Curvilinear length - 267 cm

Tally K/P

Examples of Marine Mammal Interaction Data

Atlas - National Marine Fisheries Service

Mammal Report for BERING PROWLER 4540

Mammal Report

Trip No:

MMSpecies	Animal#	Species Name

Entered Trips/Hauls/Offloads		
Type	Number	#ofRecords
Haul	4	0
Haul	3	0
Haul	2	0
Haul	1	0
Offload	2	0
Offload	1	0
Trip	1	0

Species Name: Code: Animal #:

Interaction	Condition	Animal#	ObsvrFlag	DetCode	DetSucFlag	Species	Comments

Interaction Date: Number of Animal: Observed?

Interaction Code:

Condition Code: Deterrence Successful? Deterrence Code:

Latitude Degree: Longitude Degree:

Comments:

Data Used for Management

- Marine Mammal Laboratory (MML) obtains target fishery from trips with M/SI from the Alaska Region
- Serious injuries converted to prorated mortalities using a national standardized protocol
 - Proration value assigned is dependent on the severity of the injury
- MML calculates an annual mortality rate for each marine mammal stock by fishery using the observer data
- If possible, includes estimates where the mortality has been extrapolated to the unobserved portion of the fleet using landings as a metric of effort

Biological Information

- Observer collect additional biological information, photographs, and specimen samples
- This information is provided to MML directly by the observer program

Additional information can be found in Chapter 14 “Marine Mammal Interactions and Sightings” of the 2019 Observer Sampling Manual

Potential Advantages/Disadvantages of EM

Advantages	Disadvantages
See interactions unavailable to observer	Unable to collect biological information
Able to see interaction with gear farther away from vessel	Unable to identify parts or previously dead animals *
Able to store for later review and identification	Unable to collect specimen data/photographs
Can collect time, date, species, and condition	May be unable to for monitor deterrents
And more.....	And more....

Further Questions and More Information

Protected Resources Division

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