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May 13, 2008

TO: Dr. Joan Browder,
Protected Resources Branch

FROM: Larry Beerkircher,
POP Observer Coordinator

SUBJECT: Longline gear Incidental Take summary for quarter 1, 2008.

The Miami Laboratory Pelagic Observer Program (POP) is providing you with a summary report of the incidental take of marine mammals, turtles, and birds that have been recorded by observers aboard longline vessels for January 1 to March 31, 2008. The POP completed an overall coverage rate of 11.1 % of the selected pelagic longline fleet for this quarter (Table 1), which included target coverage of 100% in the Gulf of Mexico during March 9th to March 31st. In addition, the POP monitored effort inside areas normally closed to pelagic longlining as part of a cooperative research project with NOVA Southeastern University (Table 2). During the quarter, observers recorded zero (0) seabirds, in addition to one (1) marine mammal (1-Risso's Dolphin-dead) and nine (9) sea turtles (8-leatherback-alive; 1-loggerhead-alive) in regular fishery operations. During observations in the closed areas, observers documented two sea turtles (2-leatherback-alive).

Attachments

Table (1) of the Incidental Take summary for first quarter of 2008 by geographical area and effort (sets and hook count) observed in the regular fishery; Table (2) of the Incidental Take summary for first quarter of 2008 by geographical area and effort (sets and hook count) observed in the experimental fishery.

cc: POP office files;
Guy Davenport, Jim Bohnsack (cover letters only).

Table 1: Percent coverage (by hauls), the incidental take of Protected Resource species (turtles, mammals, seabirds), and hook effort summarized by geographical area for January 1 to March 31, 2008 during regular fishing operations.

(A=Alive, D=Dead, U=Unknown. LB=Leatherback, LH=Loggerhead, O=other)

AREA	TOTAL HAULS OBSERVED	REQUIRED 8% COVERAGE	TURTLES			MAMMALS		BIRDS		
			A	D	U	A	D	A	D	
			LB/LH/O							
GOM-2	131 (12.6%)	83	4/	0/0	0	0	0	1	0	0
FEC-3	38 (19.0%)	16	3/	1/0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SAB-4	8 (5.3%)	12	0/	0/0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MAB-5	0 (0.0%)	13	0/	0/0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OFFSHORE	10 (7.3%)	11	1/	0/0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	187 (11.1%)	135	8/	1/0	0	0	0	1	0	0

Hook effort Summary:

<u>Area</u>	<u>Hook effort</u>
GOM	106,701
FEC	25,951
SAB	6,030
OFF	11,220
TOTAL	149,902

Table 2: Effort (hauls and hooks) and the incidental take of Protected Resource species (turtles, mammals, seabirds) summarized by geographical area for January 1 to March 31, 2008 during experimental fishing operations inside closed areas.

(A=Alive, D=Dead, U=Unknown. LB=Leatherback, LH=Loggerhead, O=other)

AREA	TOTAL HAULS OBSERVED	TURTLES			MAMMALS		BIRDS		
		A	D	U	A	D	A	D	
		LB/LH/O							
FEC-3	5	1/	0/0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SAB-4	7	1/	0/0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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TOTAL	12	2/	0/0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Hook effort Summary:

<u>Area</u>	<u>Hook effort</u>
FEC	2,330
SAB	3,500
TOTAL	5,830
