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TO: Dr. Lance Garrison,
Protected Resources Branch

FROM: Larry Beerkircher,
POP Observer Coordinator

SUBJECT: Longline gear Incidental Take summary for Quarter 4, 2007.

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 October 1 to December 30, 2007. The POP completed an overall coverage rate of 8.6 % of the selected pelagic longline fleet for this quarter (Table 1). During the quarter, observers recorded 30 sea turtles (24-leatherback-alive; 6-loggerheads-alive), in addition to 5 marine mammals (3-pilot whales-alive; 1-Risso's dolphin-alive; 1-Bottlenose dolphin-alive). No seabirds were observed captured this quarter.

Attached for you are the original Marine Mammal Life History (MMLH) forms submitted by observers during Quarter 4, along with copies of the associated haul logs. The POP will maintain copies of the individual life history forms in our files until you have completed your data review or entry. I recommend that the original forms be returned (with any changes in red and initialed) to the POP staff or the file cabinets in Room 324 when the reviews have been completed.

In closing, in addition to the POP reporting of Protected Resource (PR) species recorded during observed longline fishing, observers have been requested to inspect the turtle handling and dehooking gear available aboard the vessels as a requirement of the 2004 Biological Opinion (BO). Since you are the point-of-contact (POC) person overseeing the Miami BO tasking, I am providing you with copies of the Miami PR Turtle Gear check list forms filled out by the observer from Quarter 4. A PDF file will be created and will be posted on the SEFSC-POP secured website. The originals will remain on file in the observer office, room 314. Analyses associated with Turtle Take Estimates (TTE) or the Net Mortality Ratio (NMR) mentioned in the 2004 BO are not provided as the POP staffing does not have the expertise to provide these results. Finally, the POP observers recorded no sawfish catches during the quarter; this species is not likely to occur in the pelagic environment.

Attachments

Table of the Incidental Take summary for Fourth quarter of 2007 by geographical area and effort (sets and hook count) observed; MMLH Forms, photocopies of the Turtle Gear check list forms.

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 October 1 to December 31, 2007 (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
GOM-2	73 (8.7%)	67	11/0/0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FEC-3	7 (9.3%)	6	0/ 2/0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SAB-4	7 (6.2%)	9	0/ 0/0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MAB-5	52 (9.7%)	43	8/ 4/0	0	0	5	0	0	0
NEC-6	0 (0.0%)	5	0/ 0/0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NED-7	14 (16.0%)	7	5/ 0/0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OFFSHORE	0 (0.0%)	0	0/ 0/0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	153 (8.6%)	143	24/6/0	0	0	5	0	0	0

Hook effort Summary:

<u>Area</u>	<u>Hook effort</u>
GOM	62,770
FEC	3,564
SAB	4,240
MAB	52,382
NED	11,080
TOTAL	134,036