

January 2014

APPENDIX 1: DOLPHINFISH GEAR

Pelagic longline gear can be configured to take advantage of local concentrations of dolphinfish/mahi-mahi (*Coryphaena hippurus*). Often, the gear is configured in a way that directly targets dolphinfish; in this method relatively short droplines and gangions are used, and the gear is usually fished during the day for short soak periods, and can usually be set and hauled more than once in a 24 hour period. In these cases, all calculations and notations are completed in the same manner as described in the GEAR LOG INSTRUCTIONS, HAUL LOG INSTRUCTIONS, and DISTANCE CALCULATION INSTRUCTIONS. Hauls using this configuration will be given a target species designation of DOL on the Haul Log.

At other times, however, longline fishermen will attempt to take advantage of the presence of dolphinfish by a slight modification of their gear in order to not only catch the normally desired target species (e.g. swordfish and/or tunas) but to also capture more dolphinfish than the gear normally configured for swordfish/tuna would catch. This is done by clipping a short (usually 1-2 fathom) gangion directly to a daub/bulletfloat. When gear is configured in this manner, some changes in the way distance calculations are done will be needed, as well as some standardized procedures for filling out forms. These changes are detailed below.

HAUL LOG

TARGET SPECIES: Any hauls where dolphinfish leaders are clipped onto bullet floats will be MIX.

HOOK DEPTH RANGE: The minimum hook depth will be the length of the dolphinfish leaders (for example, 1 fathom leaders clipped onto the bullet floats will result in a minimum hook depth of 1 fathom). The maximum hook depth will be calculated as usual (i.e. the length of the longest floatline plus the length of the longest gangion/leader combination).

NUMBER OF HOOKS SET: This will be the total number of hooks set, the sum of all the "normal" hooks plus the dolphinfish leaders.

BAIT INFORMATION: You must remember to account for the extra dolphinfish leaders in your bait counts, weights, etc.

COMMENTS: Note how many dolphinfish leaders were set/hailed in the comments

DISTANCE CALCUALTION WORKSHEET

All sets/hauls **where** gear is set in a mixed configuration using dolphinfish leaders will be assigned a string number separate from any other sets/hauls in the same trip where such gear is not used. Special procedures must be used in order for the distance calculations to remain consistent. Primarily, this involves using two TOTAL HOOKS SET values from each haul log as input into the distance calculation worksheet. In the TOTAL HOOKS SET column of the Distance Calculation Worksheet, write both the total number of hooks set, then a slash, then write the total number of "regular" (non-dolphinfish, **attached directly to mainline**) hooks set. Further, in the MAX HOOKS PER FLOAT column, do NOT account for dolphinfish hooks, only consider "regular" hooks (**attached directly to mainline**). Work up all the averages as normal for the Distance calculation worksheet, except that the average of the TOTAL HOOKS SET column will have two values, one an average of all the hooks set, and one an average of only the "regular" hooks. The first number will be entered into the gear log for this string in the field NUMBER OF HOOKS. The second number will be used in the distance calculations at the bottom of the worksheet. Finally, the presence of a dolphinfish leader clipped to the float does NOT automatically mean the distance calculations will use a Case 1 scenario; only consider where the "regular" leaders are attached in relationship to drop floats when determining if it is a Case 1 or Case 2 scenario.

GEAR LOG

NUMBER OF HOOKS: This must be the average of the total number of hooks set (dolphinfish hooks plus regular hooks).

MAX HOOK BETWEEN: This value comes from the distance calculation worksheet, note it should NOT include dolphinfish hooks.

GANGION/LEADER LENGTH INFORMATION: Remember to account for the dolphinfish leaders (e.g. number, length) in this area. However, if two different lengths of "regular" gangions/leaders are used in addition to the dolphinfish leaders, you will need to document the dolphinfish gangion information in the comments.

COMMENTS: Note the use of dolphinfish leaders; example "USED 1 FA LEADERS CLIPPED TO EACH BULLET FLOAT FOR MAHI".

ANIMAL LOG

COMMENTS: Where possible, note the capture of an animal on a dophinfish leader by putting the comment "MAHI HOOK" in the COMMENTS field for that animal.