§ 660.720 Interim protection for sea turtles.

(a) Until the effective date of §§ 660.707 and 660.712 (d) and (e), it is unlawful for any person who is not operating under a Hawaii longline limited access permit under § 660.21(b) to do any of the following:

(1) Direct fishing effort toward the harvest of swordfish (Xiphias gladius) using longline gear deployed on the high seas of the Pacific Ocean west of 150° W. long. and north of the equator (0° N. lat.).

(2) Possess a light stick on board a longline vessel on the high seas of the Pacific Ocean west of 150° W. long. north of the equator. A light stick as used in this paragraph is any type of light emitting device, including any fluorescent glow bead, chemical, or electrically powered light that is affixed underwater to the longline gear.

(3) An operator of a longline vessel subject to this section may land or possess no more than 10 swordfish from a fishing trip where any part of the trip included fishing west of 150° W. long. and north of the equator (0° N. lat.).

(4) Fail to employ basket-style longline gear such that the mainline is deployed slack when fishing on the high seas of the Pacific Ocean west of 150° W. long. north of the equator.

(5) When a conventional monofilament longline is deployed by a vessel subject to this section, no fewer than 15 branch lines may be set between any two floats. Vessel operators using basket-style longline gear must set a minimum of 10 branch lines between any 2 floats when fishing in waters west of 150° W. long. north of the equator.

(6) Longline gear deployed by a vessel subject to this section must be deployed such that the deepest point of the main longline between any two floats, i.e., the deepest point in each sag of the main line, is at a depth greater than 100 m (328.1 ft or 54.6 fm) below the sea surface.

(b) [Reserved]

§ 660.721 Recreational fishing bag limits.

This section applies to recreational fishing for HMS management unit species in the U.S. EEZ off the coast of California, Oregon, and Washington and in the adjacent high seas areas. In addition to individual fishermen, the operator of a vessel that fishes in the EEZ is responsible for ensuring that the bag limits of this section are not exceeded. The bag limits of this section apply on the basis of each 24-hour period at sea, regardless of the number of trips per day. The provisions of this section do not authorize any person to take more than one daily bag limit of fishing during one calendar day. Federal recreational HMS regulations are not intended to supersede any more restrictive state recreational HMS regulations relating to federally-managed
Fishery Conservation and Management

HMS. The bag limits include fish taken in both state and Federal waters.

(a) Albacore Tuna Daily Bag Limit. Except pursuant to a multi-day possession permit referenced in paragraph (c) of this section, a recreational fisherman may take or retain no more than:

(1) Ten albacore tuna if any part of the fishing trip occurs in the U.S. EEZ south of a line running due west true from 34°27′ N. latitude (at Point Conception, Santa Barbara County) to the U.S.-Mexico border.

(2) Twenty-five albacore tuna if any part of the fishing trip occurs in the U.S. EEZ north of a line running due west true from 34°27′ N. latitude (at Point Conception, Santa Barbara County) to the California-Oregon border.

(b) Bluefin Tuna Daily Bag Limit. A recreational fisherman may take or retain no more than 10 bluefin tuna in the U.S. EEZ off the coast of California.

(c) Possession Limits. If the State of California requires a multi-day possession permit for albacore or bluefin tuna harvested by a recreational fishing vessel and landed in California, aggregating daily trip limits for multi-day trips would be deemed consistent with Federal law.

(d) Boat Limits. Off the coast of California, boat limits apply, whereby each fisherman aboard a vessel may continue to use recreational angling gear until the combined daily limits of HMS for all licensed and juvenile anglers aboard has been attained (additional state restrictions on boat limits may apply). Unless otherwise prohibited, when two or more persons are angling for HMS species aboard a vessel in the EEZ, fishing may continue until boat limits are reached.

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PART 665—FISHERIES IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC

Subpart A—General

Sec. 665.1 Purpose and scope.
665.2 Relation to other laws.
665.3 Licensing and registration.
665.4 Annual catch limits.
665.5–665.11 [Reserved]
665.12 Definitions.
665.13 Permits and fees.
665.14 Reporting and recordkeeping.
665.15 Prohibitions.
665.16 Vessel identification.
665.17 Experimental fishing.
665.18 Framework adjustments to management measures.
665.19 Vessel monitoring system.
665.20 Western Pacific Community Development Program.

Subpart B—American Samoa Fisheries

665.98 Management area.
665.99 Area restrictions.
665.100 American Samoa bottomfish fisheries [Reserved]
665.101 Definitions.
665.102 [Reserved]
665.103 Prohibitions.
665.104 Gear restrictions.
665.105 At-sea observer coverage.
665.106–665.119 [Reserved]
665.120 American Samoa coral reef ecosystem fisheries [Reserved]
665.121 Definitions.
665.122 [Reserved]
665.123 Relation to other laws.
665.124 Permits and fees.
665.125 Prohibitions.
665.126 Notifications.
665.127 Allowable gear and gear restrictions.
665.128 Gear identification.
665.129–665.139 [Reserved]
665.140 American Samoa crustacean fisheries [Reserved]
665.141 Definitions.
665.142 Permits.
665.143 Prohibitions.
665.144 Notifications.
665.145 At-sea observer coverage.
665.146–665.159 [Reserved]
665.160 American Samoa precious coral fisheries [Reserved]
665.161 Definitions.
665.162 Permits.
665.163 Prohibitions.
665.164 Gear restrictions.
665.165 Size restrictions.
665.166 Closures.
665.167 Quotas.
665.168 Seasons.
665.169 Gold coral harvest moratorium.

Subpart C—Hawaii Fisheries

665.198 Management areas.
665.199 Area restrictions [Reserved]
665.200 Hawaii bottomfish and seamount groundfish fisheries [Reserved]
665.201 Definitions.
665.202 Management subareas.
665.203 Permits.
665.204 Prohibitions.
665.205 Notification.
665.206 Gear restrictions.
665.207 At-sea observer coverage.
665.208 Protected species conservation.