



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Northeast Fisheries Science Center
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MEMORANDUM FOR: A.I.S., Inc.
Northeast Fisheries Observer Program Observers

FROM: Amy S. Van Atten 
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SUBJECT: Outreach Materials:
NOAA Guide to Marine Mammals of the Northwest Atlantic Ocean
Reducing Marine Mammal Interactions in Atlantic Trawl Fisheries

Photo Protocols:
Photo Re-naming Process
Video Capabilities of Digital Camera
Bottlenose Dolphin Photos

Gear Code Changes:
Haddock Separator Trawl and Ruhle Trawl
Eastern US/Canada Cheatsheet

Sampling Reminder: Conger Eel, American Shad, Alewife,
Atlantic Herring, Atlantic Mackerel

Updated Marine Mammal Sample Authorization Sheet

Outreach Materials:

Enclosed you will find two copies each of the two outreach guides. The first guide: NOAA Guide to Marine Mammals of the Northwest Atlantic Ocean provides general species identification information including common animal behaviors, in addition to, information about NOAA's marine mammal programs and take reduction teams/plans. The second guide: Reducing Marine Mammal Interactions in Atlantic Trawl Fisheries provides general information on the Marine Mammal Protection Act, NEFOP, and information important to the Atlantic Trawl Gear Take Reduction Plan (ATGTRP), including species identification for those species of concern for the ATGTRP.

It is the hope of NEFOP that these guides will help to increase awareness of the NMFS Take Reduction Teams and other programs for marine mammals while providing a quick reference for observers and captain/crew of commercial fishing vessels of marine mammal species in the Northwest Atlantic Ocean. The guide Reducing Marine Mammal Interactions in Atlantic Trawl Fisheries provides some additional information on voluntary measure to reduce takes in Atlantic trawl fisheries.

Please feel free to provide these guides to interested Captain/Crew of any fishing vessels which you are deployed on. If this guide is provided to a vessel's captain, crew, or owner please provide a comment in the IPAQ Obscon data upload comment field for that trip "guide provided" with the indication of which guide was provided and whether it was the Captain, Crew or Vessel Owner.

Thank you in advance for your efforts in providing these outreach materials to the Captain/Crew of the commercial fishing fleets. If you have any questions concerning these guides and/or their intended use please contact Betty Lentell, Betty.Lentell@noaa.gov or phone 508-495-2141.

Photo Protocols:

In an effort to further streamline the storage and reviewing of digital photos, we are asking all observers to change to a new naming convention for all photos. The digital camera protocols document has been enclosed for reference and completely outlines the new procedures for renaming photos. **It is extremely important that you follow the new naming convention precisely to ensure the proper processing of photos.**

Video capabilities of the digital camera were not fully explained when the cameras were issued last year. The use of video clips is permitted though clip length should be limited as upload times will increase with file size. All video files should be renamed in the same manner as photo files and the upload procedure is exactly the same as for photos. **To record video on the camera:** Turn the dial on the camera to the video camera symbol. Press the shutter once to begin recording. Press the shutter again to end recording. Videos can be reviewed on the camera as you would review photos. Once again, please keep video lengths short and use where appropriate. Videos should not replace photos and if an event can be captured with a photo, please take a photo. Videos would be helpful in situations such as post-release behavior of a turtle take for example, but are not generally necessary for basic species id. Please use discretion when taking videos and all the same confidentiality protocols apply. Videos are property of the NEFOP and **SHOULD NOT** be distributed at any time or uploaded to any public websites (i.e., facebook, my space, twitter, etc...). If you have questions concerning the use of video with the digital camera please contact Charles Dunlap, Charles.Dunlap@noaa.gov or 508-495-2035.

Please note that, effective immediately, all incidental takes involving bottlenose dolphin require a photo of both sides of the animal's dorsal fin. Please be sure that this is a lateral view (from the side) of the entire dorsal fin. These photos will be used by researchers to identify individual bottlenose dolphins so it is extremely important that photos of the dorsal fin be included with every bottlenose dolphin take. If you have questions regarding the protocols for incidental takes of bottlenose dolphins please contact Betty Lentell, Betty.Lentell@noaa.gov or phone 508-495-2141.

New Gear Codes:

Fishermen are now required to use new gear codes on their Vessel Trip Reports when using a Haddock Separator Trawl or a Ruhle trawl. To maintain consistency with these requirements and for ease of data comparisons for NMFS data analysts, NEFOP will also adopt new gear codes to identify these specific trawl nets. The new codes are as follows:

- 054 -- Otter Trawl, Ruhle
- 057 - Otter Trawl, Haddock separator

In addition to using these gear codes on the Vessel & Trip Log, Trawl Gear and Haul Logs, observers will still be required to identify these nets in the NET TYPE field on the Trawl Gear Characteristics Log. Also, please be aware that if a standard bottom trawl, or other type of bottom trawl (not identified with a gear code), is used in addition to the Ruhle and Haddock Separator, this will make the trip a multigear trip (for example, 050 and 054). The start date for using these codes is October 15, 2009. **In order to enter these new codes on your iPAQ, you will need to go to the secure upload website and download the necessary support tables.** Instructions for this procedure are the same as was provided in April for the new SAP reporting requirements and are included in this packet. If you have any questions regarding these new gear codes please contact your editor.

A new cheat sheet is also included that details the Haddock Separator and Ruhle trawls, along with the Flounder Trawl, and their use in the Eastern US/Canada area and Regular B DAS Program. As a reminder of how to properly record the gear characteristics of these trawls, Memo 08-015 is included for the Ruhle Trawl (with a completed gear log) as well as examples of a completed gear log for both a Haddock Separator Trawl and a Flounder Trawl; please review them carefully. A gear description for the Ruhle Trawl can also be found in Memo 08-015. Gear descriptions for the Haddock Separator Trawl and the Flounder Trawl can be found below.

Haddock Separator Trawl

A haddock separator trawl is defined as a groundfish trawl modified to a vertically oriented trouser trawl configuration, with two extensions arranged one over the other, with a codend attached only to the upper extension, and the bottom extension left open with no codend attached. In addition, a horizontal separating panel constructed with a minimum of 6.0 inch diamond mesh must be installed laterally between the selvages joining the upper and lower panels, extending forward from the front of the trouser junction to the aft edge of the first belly behind the fishing circle.

Flounder Trawl

A two-seam, low-rise net with the top panel of the net containing a section of mesh at least 10 ft long and stretching from selvedge to selvedge, composed of at least 12 inch mesh that is inserted no farther than 4.5 meshes behind the headrope.

OR

A two-seam, low-rise net where the maximum footrope length is not greater than 105 ft and the headrope is at least 30 percent longer than the footrope. The footrope and headrope lengths are measured from the forward wing end. **This net does not have a large mesh panel in the top.**

REMINDER:

In June of this year, a memo (memo #09-011) was sent out regarding sampling requests for conger eels, alewives, American shad, and Atlantic herring and mackerel. Very few samples have been sent in thus far and this serves as a reminder to all observers that these samples should continue to be collected. Please refer to the memo for complete sampling instructions. A copy of the memo can be found on the NEFOP website at www.nefsc.noaa.gov/femad/fishsamp/fsb/. Any samples sent in for special sampling requests will result in extra points awarded on your bonus for the quarter the samples are sent in.

Also enclosed is a new copy of the Marine Mammal Sample Authorization sheet issued in July of this year. Please replace your old copy with this cleaner copy.

Enclosures: The NOAA Guide to Marine Mammals of the Northwest Atlantic Ocean
Reducing Marine Mammal Interactions in Atlantic Trawl Fisheries
NEFOP Memo 08-015
Completed Gear Log for Ruhle Trawl
Completed Gear Log for Haddock Separator Trawl
Eastern USCA Area and Regular B-DAS Program Gear Requirements Cheatsheet
Marine Mammal Sample Authorization Sheet
Digital Camera Protocols