



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Northeast Fisheries Science Center
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MEMORANDUM FOR: East West Technical Services
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

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.

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/.

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
Marine Mammal Sample Authorization Sheet
Digital Camera Protocols