



Science, Service, Stewardship

NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE PROTECTED RESOURCES DIVISION



The Marine Mammal Branch of the Southeast Region Protected Resources Division provides protection and recovery for marine mammals through collaborative management, research, outreach and partnerships.

<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>

(727) 551-5758 (MMAP Hotline)

(727) 824-5312 (General)

About the Marine Mammal Authorization Program

The primary goals of the [Marine Mammal Authorization Program \(MMAP\)](#) are to exempt commercial fishermen from [Marine Mammal Protection Act](#) prohibitions against incidental take of marine mammals in certain fisheries; to educate and inform fishermen about marine mammal interactions; and to increase fishermen self-reporting of incidental takes.

MMAP applies to commercial fishermen in Category I and II Fisheries

- MMAP registry is automatic in some NMFS regions, including the Southeast
- Registered fishermen must carry an Authorization Certificate as required by law as proof of registry during enforcement boardings
- Registered fishermen must report incidental take that results in a marine mammal being seriously injured or killed
- Registered fishermen must carry observers when requested by NMFS or a designated contractor

List of Fisheries

The List of Fisheries (LOF) annually classifies US commercial fisheries into one of three categories based on the level of serious injury and mortality of marine mammals that occurs incidental to each fishery.

- The [2009 Atlantic Ocean LOF Summary](#) lists only Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Category I and II fisheries
- The [Complete List of Fisheries](#) (LOF) lists all Category I, II and III US commercial fisheries operating in state and federal waters, detailed fishery descriptions, fishery-marine mammal interactions, rationale for categorizations and answers to public comments
- Proposed and Final LOF are published annually in the [Federal Register](#)

“Take” means to harass, hunt, capture, collect or kill a marine mammal. It also means to attempt to harass, hunt, capture, collect or kill a marine mammal. Definitions and exact Marine Mammal Protection Act requirements are found in [50 CFR Parts 216-23](#)