

# Longline Gear Description Form

## Instructions

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## Introduction

In February 2009 the Longline Data Collection Form was created to collect information on the characteristics of longline fishing vessels and gear operating in the artisanal fisheries.

### ***INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE COLLECTION OF DATA***

Data is collected through direct measurements and by marking the best choice among the options presented. All measurements should be taken or converted to the units indicated on the form.

### ***Fields of the form***

#### **Vessel information**

**Vessel name** The name of the vessel.

**Registration** The official registration number used to identify the vessel.

**Date** The date that the information was collected.

**Location** The name of the port where the information was collected.

**Recorded by** The name of the person collection the information.

**Hull** The primary material used to construct the hull. Select one of the three options that describe the hull material. If the hull is constructed of some other material, mark 'Other' along with a brief description of the material.

**No. crewmen** The number of people that normally make up the crew during a fishing trip, including the fishing captain.

**Length** The length, in meters, of the vessel from the tip of the bow to the end of the stern.

**Width** The width, in meters, of the widest point of the vessel.

**Main engine** The main motor power, measured in horsepower.

**Outboard** The main motor is attached to the outside of the vessel.

**Inboard** The main motor is installed inside the vessel.

#### **Line information**

**Vertical location** The location of the longline in the water column.

**Surface** The longline is located on the surface of the water.

**Mid-water** The longline is located between the surface and the bottom of the water column.

**Bottom** The longline is located on the bottom of the water column.

**Setting mode** The method of setting the gear.

**Drift** The gear is left floating in or on the water.

**Anchored** The gear is anchored to the bottom to keep it from drifting.

**Other** The gear is set in a mode which differs from the available options. Describe the mode in the space provided.

**Total number of hooks per set**

**Min** The minimum number of hooks typically used during a set.

**Max** The maximum number of hooks typically used during a set.

**Distance between hooks** The distance, in fathoms, between hooks. If the distance varies on the line, record the most common distance between hooks.

**Number of hooks between floats** The number of hooks most commonly found between floats.

### **Mainline**

**Material** The type of material used in the mainline.

**Color** The predominant color of the mainline.

**Diameter** The predominant diameter of the mainline, measured in millimeters.

**Length** The length of the mainline, measured in nautical miles. If the length varies from trip to trip or set to set, record the maximum length used.

**Lead in mainline** Indicate whether weights are used in the mainline.

**Distance between leads** If weights are used in the mainline, record the most common distance, in fathoms, between the weights along the length of the mainline.

**Comments** Record any additional useful information related to the mainline.

### **Floatline**

**Material** The type of material used in the floatlines.

**Color** The predominant color of the floatlines.

**Diameter** The predominant diameter of the floatlines, measured in millimeters.

**Length** The length of the floatline, measured in fathoms.

**Distance floatline and branchline** Record the most common horizontal distance, in fathoms, between the floatline and the closest branchline.

**Floatline/mainline connection** Select the option which best describes the connection.

**Knots** Choose this option if the floatline and mainline are tied together. Sometimes a small plastic container is used: consider this to be a knot.

**Snap** Choose this option if the floatline and mainline are joined with a snap (quick-release type of hook).

**Comments** Record any additional useful information related to the floatline.

### **Branchlines/Gangions**

Use this section to record the characteristics of each section of the branchline. Use a separate line for each branchline section. If the branchlines are not uniform throughout the gear, record the information for the predominant number of branchlines.

**Section** The consecutive number assigned to each branchline section, starting with the section closest to the surface of the water and proceeding down.

**Material** The type of branchline material for the section.

**Diameter** The diameter of the branchline, in millimeters, for the section.

**Length** The length of the branchline, in fathoms, for the section.

**Color** The predominant color of the branchline for the section.

**Leads/Swivels** Select “Yes” if leads or swivels are tied to the section of the branchline to add weight to the branchline, to get the hook fishing right at deeper depths. If necessary, use the “Comments” section for additional description. If no swivels or leads are tied, select “No”.

**Comments** Record any additional useful information related to the section of the branchline.

**Branchline/mainline connection** Select the option which best describes the connection.

**Knots** Choose this option if the branchline and mainline are tied together. Sometimes a small plastic container is used: consider this to be a knot.

**Snap** Choose this option if the branchline and mainline are joined with a snap (quick-release type of hook).

**Swivel** Choose this option if the branchline and mainline are joined with a swivel.

### **Hooks**

Use this section to record the characteristics of the different hooks used for fishing.

**Type** Indicate the general hook type (J, Tuna, C, EZ).

**Size** Indicate the hook size, for example: No.1, 2, 3, or 14, 15, 16 or 14/0, 15/0, 16/0.

**Material** Indicate the hook material, for example “steel”, “stainless steel”, etc.

**Manufacturer** The name of the hook manufacturer.

**Offset** Holding the hook with the barb closest to your face, determine the angle of the barb with respect to the shaft of the hook. Record ‘1’ if the barb bends to the left of the shaft, ‘2’ if the barb and shaft are aligned, and ‘3’ if the barb bends to the right of the shaft.

**Ring (Y/N)** Record ‘Y’ if there is a ring through the loop at the end of the hook shaft, and ‘N’ if there is simply a loop.

**Other features** Describe any other features of interest of the hook. .

### **Float, flagpole, buoy, radiobuoy**

Use this section to describe the characteristics of each of the indicated longline components.

**Quantity** The number of components usually present in the longline. If the number varies from trip to trip or set to set, record the maximum number commonly used.

**Material** The predominant material of each component.

**Color** The predominant color of each component.

**Comments** Record any additional useful information related to the component.

### **Catch information**

Use this section to list the principal species captured by the gear described in this form, in order of importance.

### **Predation on catch/bait by:**

Use this section to list the species which commonly attack the catch hooked by the gear, or the bait. Indicate whether each predator species primarily attacks the hooked catch or the bait on the hooks.

### **Bait**

Use this section to describe information related to the bait used during fishing operations.

**Main species (sort by importance)** List the bait used, in order of importance.

**Condition** Indicate whether the bait is live, fresh (dead but has never been frozen or preserved) or frozen.

**Rigging** Indicate whether the bait is placed whole on the hook, or if it is cut into strips before being placed on the hooks.

## **Fishing characteristics**

**Most common fishing ground** Describe the area most commonly visited for fishing operations.

**Most common fishing period** Record the most common time of day for starting and finishing the deployment of hooks, and the most common time of day for starting and finishing the retrieval of the hooks. **Note:** Record the hours in military time (from 00:00 to 23:59 hours).

**Number of sets per trip** Record the number of sets most often completed during a fishing trip.

**Number of days per trip** Record the number of days at sea for a typical fishing trip.

**Side setting** Indicate if the vessel typically sets the gear from the side of the vessel ('Yes'). If the vessel sets the gear from the stern or bow, mark 'No'.

**Line-setter** Indicate whether the vessel typically uses a mechanical line-setter.

**Line patrolled** Indicate whether the vessel normally checks the line for capture, removing catch and rebaiting the hooks, before hauling in the mainline

**Line retrieval** Choose the most appropriate method used to haul in the mainline.

**Manual** The mainline is pulled in by hand.

**Hand reel** The mainline is pulled in with a reel operated by hand.

**Hydraulic/electric reel** The mainline is pulled in with a reel operated by a hydraulic or electric motor.

**Line hauler** The mainline is pulled in by a line hauler mechanism.

## **Fishing gear diagram**

Use this space to sketch the longline configuration typically used by this vessel. If the vessel uses more than one configuration, attempt to sketch each one.

## Appendices

### Conversion factors

Inches to meters:	$m = in * 0.0254$
Feet to meters:	$m = ft * 0.3048$
Meters to fathoms	$fath = m * 0.5468$
Feet to fathoms	$fath = ft * 0.1666$
Inches to millimeters	$mm = in * 25.4$
Kilometers to nautical miles	$Nm = km * 0.5399$

### Longline diagram

