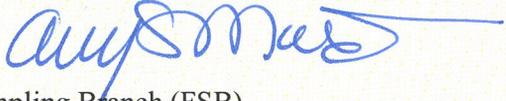




November 17, 2014

MEMORANDUM FOR: A.I.S., Inc.,
East West Technical Services,
Fathom Research LLC, and
MRAG Americas
At-Sea Monitors, Industry Funded Scallop Observers, and
Northeast Fisheries Observer Program Observers

FROM: Amy Martins 
Branch Chief, Fisheries Sampling Branch (FSB)

SUBJECT: Dead Bird Sampling Protocol Update

The Northeast Fisheries Observer Program (NEFOP) is changing the sampling protocols for dead sea birds. Observers will no longer be required to take feather samples. However, we are still expecting observers to bring in whole dead, fresh sea birds. The new sampling protocols for sea birds will be as follows:

Live animals (unchanged):

1. Photograph and video
2. Describe identifying characteristics and condition, including any visible wounds
3. Check for the presence of bands, record band number and photograph, if possible
4. Release and comment on behavior and any gear remaining on animal
Release away from gear, with vessel slowed, lower bird by hand as close to water as possible, releasing hold of the head last

Dead animals (changed):

1. Photograph, including something for scale
2. Describe identifying characteristics and condition, including any visible wounds
3. Check for the presence of bands, record band number and retain, if possible
4. Retain whole seabird, if possible. Only retain 'dead, fresh' animals; otherwise release

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this change in protocol please contact Bill Greer at william.greer@noaa.gov or (508)495-2126.