Federal and state regulations now require most longline vessels to use bird avoidance devices and techniques when longline fishing in Alaska and federal waters. These requirements vary depending on your vessel length, area fished, type of gear used, and the superstructure of your vessel. For your specific requirements, see the NOAA Fisheries Service seabird website at [http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/protectedresources/seabirds/guide.htm](http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/protectedresources/seabirds/guide.htm) or contact your local NOAA Enforcement office.

These free streamer lines were created to make it easier for you to comply with these regulations. They were created through a cooperative effort of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, NOAA Fisheries Service, and the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission. They were developed by Mark Lundsten, Washington Sea Grant, and the Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program.

**Suggested Instructions for Lightweight Streamer Lines**

1. Attach a length of line (tag line in illustration) to a mast or high point at least 10 feet above your deck for snap gear or 20 feet for conventional gear. Make this line long enough to extend back to a point even with the stern of your vessel, then allow it to hang down to become a retrieval line for the streamer. The optimum height may vary according to setting speed, wind speed, and the type of drag you use, but should allow the line to remain aloft far enough astern to avoid fouling on sinking longline gear while also forming a “moving bird fence” above or next to the sinking gear to deter bird attacks.
2. Tie a loop in the tag line even with the stern and secure the loose end of the tag line to the vessel for ease in retrieving the line.
3. Snap the “boat” end of the streamer line (the end with the longest orange streamers) to the loop.
4. Attach a buoy, water jug, or other source of drag (see back for tips) to the “float” end of the streamer line; the end with the shortest orange streamers.
5. Toss in the streamer line float/drag and begin paying out the line before you begin setting gear. This will minimize fouling between streamer line and gear.
6. Retrieve after final anchor or buoy is set. (See tips for ways to retrieve easily).
Tips from your Fellow Fishermen on Using Streamer Lines and Buoy Lines

“I have a 32-foot sternpicker that is rigged for snap gear with no mast. I had a davit built that attaches to the rail at the stern of the vessel. It can swivel to swing the arm in and out, and telescopes to increase the height of the attachment point for the streamer.”
- Peter Thompson, Kodiak

Creating Drag

“We use a plastic funnel with a gillnet cork inside for drag.” - Peter Thompson, Kodiak

“A milk jug half full of water creates enough drag to keep lighter streamers aloft.”
- Dan Hull, Cordova

“We use a half-inflated buoy for drag on our heavier, longer streamer lines.”
- Arne Fuglvog, Petersburg

Deploying and Retrieving

“I do a 180-degree turn and circle back towards the streamer line when we’re hauling the streamer line in. This makes it much easier for the crew to retrieve the line, no matter how much drag is on it.” – John Swanson, Petersburg

“I run the streamer line through a gurdy on my power troller. I then snap the streamers onto the line as I’m deploying it, and unhook them as it comes in. You need to attach 20 feet or so of extra line to the start of the line so you can retrieve it.” – Dan Falvey, Sitka

Buoy lines

“We have a bowpicker, so we use a buoy line instead of streamers. We were worried about the line getting fouled on our gear, so we experimented with running the line through 1 1/8” discharge hose before attaching the buoy. We thought that would keep the hooks from snagging because the hose would be too big for the hooks to snag on. It worked great!” - Bill Lindow, Cordova

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