

**JOB PROGRESS REPORT  
COORDINATION PROJECT SEGMENT**

**STATE:** Territory of Guam

**PROJECT NO.:** F-1R-8

**SUB-PROJECT NO.:** F-3

**JOB NO.:** 1

**JOB TITLE:** Technical Guidance to Projects Affecting Guam's Fish Resources  
(2710, 2720)

**PERIOD COVERED:** October 1, 1999 to September 30, 2000

**BACKGROUND**

The Division of Aquatic & Wildlife Resources (DAWR) professional Fisheries staff devoted a significant percentage of their time and effort to technical assistance to fulfill the statutory responsibility to review and comment on development plans, rezoning applications, and various permit applications. Because of the size and complexity of some of these developments, the Fisheries Staff's review responsibility requires a continuing commitment that could extend even beyond project completion.

The Division's Technical Assistance Program (TAP) within the Administration/ Coordination Section remained unstaffed due to funding. The work has been transferred to the Agricultural Development Services (ADS) Division. ADS coordinates with fisheries on issues requiring such expertise. The professional staff within the Fishery Section provide technical support to the ADS staff, and occasionally take the lead in the review of projects involving their particular expertise, such as those that may have endangered species (sea turtles) impacts and those involving coral reefs.

**OBJECTIVES**

- 1) To minimize adverse environmental impact resulting from the construction of recreational, commercial, residential, industrial or public utility facilities.
- 2) Provide technical assistance to military and civil agencies relative to the management and protection of fish resources.

**FINDINGS**

Fisheries personnel have been actively involved in the technical guidance function during this segment. Numerous development plans, impact statements, and permit applications have been

submitted to the Division for review. Field investigations and meetings with responsible agencies have been conducted in many cases as a part of the review process.

Various Fisheries Staff members actively serve as members of the following groups:

- 1) Recreational Water Use Master Plan
- 2) Western Pacific Regional Pelagic, Bottomfish, and Coral Reef Ecosystem Plan Monitoring Teams
- 3) Federal Data Coordinating Committee
- 4) The Guam Coral Reef Initiative, Technical Support
- 5) The National Coral Reef Initiative Ecological Task Force
- 6) Guam Water Planning Committee
- 7) Aquaculture Task Force

Members of the Fisheries Section attended approximately 150 meetings and made approximately 100 field inspections during FY00 pertaining to the protection of Guam's natural resources. Additionally, staff members have continued to actively consult with various civil and military agencies on environmental matters.

DAWR staff maintained good working relationships with Guam-based agencies regarding matters of environmental concern to include: Department of Land Management (DLM); Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR); Bureau of Planning (BOP); Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); University of Guam (UOG); U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE); U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Western Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Council (WESTPAC); National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS); U.S. Navy (USN); U.S. Coast Guard (USCG); and U.S. Air Force (USAF). In addition, staff members actively consulted with the numerous off-island visitors, representing various agencies and organizations during the reporting segment.

Fisheries staff maintained considerable public contact in FY00. In addition to occasional interviews on radio, television, and in the newspaper, they also gave presentations to a number of civic groups and schools.

Some specific Technical Assistance activities provided by the Fisheries section included:

- 1) Technical support to the Division ADS staff, who represents the Department and the Division on the ARC, which met bi-weekly to review applications for rezoning, variances, and various types of development.

- 2) Offered comments and provided information to the WESTPAC and the Plan Monitoring Team (PMT) on projects for bottomfish, pelagic fisheries and coral reefs. Information was provided on market sampling, and stock assessment, and from recreational and near-water commercial vessels. In addition, professional staff attended 6 off-island PMT meetings during FY00.
- 3) Reviewed and commented on three proposed bills that would affect fisheries.
- 4) Investigated one suspected fish kill in island waters during the year.
- 5) Responded to requests (~200) for information on laws and regulations pertaining to fish, endangered species, fishing and importation of fish.
- 6) Made presentations (~31) on fish resources to other organizations or groups during FY00.
- 7) Provided statistical data on fisheries issues to the BOP and Department of Commerce on a quarterly basis.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

To ensure that local salary funds are maintained to the Department's Agriculture Development Services (ADS) so they can continue to support this work for DAWR.

## **PROGRAM COST**

The estimated cost of the project is \$28,000.

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