

GUAM FISHERIES DATA COLLECTION

STATE: Territory of Guam

JOB TITLE: Guam Fisheries Data Collection

GRANTOR: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Cooperative Agreement with
Western Pacific Fisheries Information Network (WestPacFin)

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

SUMMARY

The Guam Department of Agriculture, Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources (DAWR) as part of the FY00 Fisheries Data Collection Cooperative Agreement with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS, Award No. NA97FN0507) is required to provide semi-annual and final progress reports for the period for FY00.

RESULTS

Data Collection

Collection of offshore survey data continued throughout the agreement period. Data coding and entry have been kept up to date. During this period, offshore historical data was input from FY82-present. Verification of historical data is ongoing to ensure that the different strata necessary for the expansion process can be gleaned from it. Eventually, the entire historical data set will be input into the database so that minimally, Catch per unit of effort (CPUE) and length-weights (LWs) can be utilised for comparison with recent data.

The vendor receipt program maintained the vendor coverage and quality control of keypunched data during the report period. The biologist formerly in charge of the program resigned in December 1999, but a DAWR staff biologist was tasked with managing the program in the interim. In July 2000, a DAWR staff biologist was promoted to officially take over the program. Two of the 3 major vendors are up-to-date with providing receipt books, while the third is approximately 2 months behind. A fourth vendor had not turned in a single receipt book, possibly due to either the low volume of local fish bought from fishers or sold to customers. DAWR continues to work on data collection improvements from vendors and processing with advice from NMFS, Honolulu Lab.

Exploratory bottomfish fishing expedition data has been processed and quality controlled. However, the biologist in charge of the program resigned in December 1999. Another DAWR

biologist had been assigned to resume work on the project, but staff shortages and increased workloads had prevented the final verification, analysis, and quality control. During FY01, NMFS, Honolulu Lab will assist DAWR with a small portion of the data to work towards finishing the project.

Data Processing

The input and processing of offshore survey data is current and report generation has been successfully automated. Currently, an input of eight offshore surveys and four participation surveys into the offshore expansion system occur each month. In addition, an input of historical offshore data from FY82-present has been and is still being verified to obtain a complete and accurate history of offshore activity on Guam. Historical data prior to FY82, however, did not record various strata or a boat log, which is critical with the current expansion program. Data prior to FY81 is being input so that a minimal of CPUE, species diversity, and LW analyses can be used.

Offshore data has been used for various reporting requirements within DAWR and was used for FY Federal Aid reporting requirements for the Offshore Fishery program during this reporting period.

DAWR's inshore creel data expansion system is currently being integrated to a FoxPro format, similar to what was developed for the offshore data. This will enable both data collection entities of DAWR to obtain a more holistic account on the harvest of management unit species for the pelagic, bottomfish, and crustacean plan teams. To date, archival inshore data from the Macintosh-based (4-D) program has been forwarded to NMFS, Honolulu Lab for processing.

The analysis of the Bank A project has been reassigned to another DAWR biologist due to the resignation of the biologist formerly in charge. Analysis of the data is temporarily on hold due to a staff shortage and the assigned staff working on other projects. Analysis of the data should proceed with the assistance of NMFS, Honolulu Lab.

The biologist working on the vendor receipt book program has been aggressive in ensuring receipt books are turned in, although periodic problems with vendors do occur. The 3 major vendors can be a couple months behind in turning in receipts, which are quickly input into the program. Two major vendors are up to date with turning in receipts, while the other vendor is approximately a month behind and the fourth vendor has not turned in any for FY00.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Email communication between NMFS and DAWR personnel has been exceptional for FY00. NMFS staff made site visits to Guam in February and September 1999 to work with DAWR on various data and program needs. DAWR personnel also visited NMFS, Honolulu Lab in April, which coincided with bottomfish and pelagic plan team meetings. A joint presentation on

the preliminary results of the bottomfish Bank A project was conducted by DAWR and NMFS at the FDCC meeting in Honolulu, HI.

PROJECT COST

The cost of the program was approximately \$75,000.

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