

GUAM COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

STATE: Territory of Guam

JOB TITLE: Commercial Fisheries on Guam

GRANTOR: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)

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

SUMMARY

During FY00, DAWR collected vendor receipt books from three active cooperating vendors on a regular basis. The computerized data were computerized and sent to the NMFS Honolulu Lab.

BACKGROUND

The commercial fisheries program was established in 1979 to gather data related to the caught and sold fishery resources on Guam (DAWR 1990-99). The program was initiated by the NMFS Honolulu Lab and was only collected from the Guam Fishermen's Cooperative in Hagatña. The program has slowly changed over time in that many of the early participants went out of business. As part of the long-term program plan, data collection and management has shifted from NMFS in Hawaii to the Guam Department of Agriculture's Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources (DAWR). Program responsibility has slowly increased to the point where DAWR now handles data collection, computer input, and production of commercial landing tables. All data collections are forwarded to NMFS Honolulu Lab for their regional report requirements.

OBJECTIVES

- 1) To monitor, analyze and report locally caught fish sales and related activities through the collection of NMFS issued vendor's receipt books.

PROCEDURES

The Guam Commercial Fisheries provide receipt books to each volunteer fish vendor. After the catch is purchased, each vendor is asked to record the following information: 1) name of the person; 2) date; 3) hours fished; 4) number of fishermen; 5) fishing location; and 5) fishing method. The assigned fisherman number is then placed on each receipt after it is returned and a record is kept of all new people who sell fish, who are then given a number after they have been

consistently selling fish. The catch information is broken down into 6 primary areas: (1) Bottom fish; (2) Reef fish; (3) Troll (pelagic) fish; (4) Invertebrates; (5) Seaweed; and (6) Imported Items. Each category has an assigned code number and even though there is a category for imported fish, the program is primarily intended to monitor locally caught and sold fish. There is space provided to indicate the number of items sold, total weight, price paid per pound, the value of the items, the total value of the transaction and any additional remarks. There are three copies of each receipt with one for the seller, vendor, and DAWR. Vendors are visited on a regular basis to monitor completion of the forms, collect completed receipt books, check on errors, and insure they have an adequate supply of receipt books.

Data entry into the receipt book database system consisted of the following: 1) data entry; 2) cross-checked for accuracy; and 3) verification all questions about the data with the vendors.

RESULTS

Total values and price per pound by species are listed (Table 1) to represent the actual catch sold to vendors from fishermen for FY00. These data will be transferred to the NMFS Honolulu Lab to be archived and included in the “Fishery Statistics of the Western Pacific,” and the bottom fish/pelagic plan monitoring team annual reports.

Table 1. Commercial Landings in Pounds (lbs) and U.S. Dollars (\$) by species sold for FY00.

SPECIES	Lbs	VALUE (\$)	\$/Lb
Miscellaneous	5.20	10.40	2.00
Bigeye scad (Atulai)	5,322.95	13,819.44	2.58
Black jack	202.5	522.38	2.58
Jacks	1,846.40	4,669.39	2.53
Mullet	34.00	91.25	2.68
Bottom fish	1,076.70	3,193.2	2.97
Deep bottom	137.83	512.03	3.71
Ehu (Red snapper)	546.24	2,180.82	3.99
Gindai (Flower snapper)	548.82	2,192.98	4.00
Grouper	1,615.32	3,920.60	2.43
Kalikali (Pink snapper)	750.81	2,542.36	3.39
Lehi (Silvermouth)	1,027.74	4,110.96	4.00
Onaga (Red snapper)	7,788.69	33,214.36	4.26
Opakapaka (Pink snapper)	586.93	2,347.12	4.00
Uku (Gray snapper)	301.02	787.49	2.62
Amberjack	608.52	1,657.95	2.72
Reef fish	168,812.01	504,530.80	2.99
Wrasse	1,307.54	3,318.28	2.54
Rabbitfish (Hitting)	37.00	111.00	3.00
Rabbitfish (Manahak)	770.95	2,383.44	3.09
Emperor (Mafute)	1,413.56	4,027.42	2.85
Parrotfish	593.50	1,467.25	2.47
Snapper	413.80	1,091.35	2.64
Surgeonfish	5.60	16.80	3.00

Goatfish	2.46	7.38	3.00
Trollfish	42.70	71.60	1.68
Barracuda	3,290.91	6,699.92	2.04
Mahimahi	56,126.97	120,523.10	2.15
Marlin	47,005.30	54,164.58	1.15
Spearfish	25.00	37.50	1.50
Sailfish	1,135.90	1,494.63	1.32
Rainbow runner	2,986.69	6,217.19	2.08
Mongchong	450.50	881.00	1.96
Wahoo	33,691.11	75,756.34	2.25
Tunas	2.50	7.50	3.00
Skipjack tuna	110,373.34	141,394.90	1.28
Dogtooth tuna	2,901.10	3,987.68	1.37
Yellowfin tuna	33,451.71	64,617.95	1.93
Kawakawa	14.10	19.22	1.36
Invertebrates	3.32	12.46	3.75
Crabs (Miscellaneous)	12.97	35.51	2.74
Coconut Crabs	8.00	80.00	10.00
Lobster	3,349.50	12,949.84	3.87
Octopus	2,354.51	6,717.57	2.85
Shrimp/prawn	22.00	146.50	6.66
Tilapia (Miscellaneous)	966.00	2,227.00	2.31
Total	494,003.22	1,090,777.44	2.21

Receipt books from a fourth vendor, who was in the program during FY99, were not collected during FY00 because they were not recording data into the receipt book as fishermen sold them their catch. The vendor's reason was that fishermen would get upset having their names written down. As a solution, the vendor would transfer the data into the receipt book at a later date, which complicated the problem due to the time lag between the sale, annotation, and receipt to DAWR. DAWR staff consulted with the NMFS Honolulu Lab about the situation and came up with a proposal for the vendor to record the data without the fishermen's name and to write only the locally sold fish onto the receipt book to reduce time. DAWR staff then discussed the situation with the vendor, who agreed with the proposed solution, but the vendor failed to abide by it and their receipt books were not completed and collected during FY00. DAWR had recently discussed the issue with the vendor with their willingness to properly record data for FY01.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Regulations need to be developed to require the provision of unique identification code numbers for each fisher when selling locally caught and imported fish to vendors. This would give a more comprehensive view of the commercial fishery activity around Guam and prevent identical code numbers from being issued to fishers with the same name.

Develop new database system with current software. The currently used DOS database system is out-dated and has limited applications. Microsoft's Visual Fox Pro has more powerful

applications for data manipulation, management, reporting, and sharing programs. An updated system would allow managers to make a more comprehensive summary of the commercial fishery activity for Guam.

PROGRAM COST

The cost of program was approximately \$65,000.

This report was prepared by: Jay T. Gutierrez, Fisheries Biologist III.

LITERATURE CITED

Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources. 1990-99. Job Progress Reports - Federal Aid to Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration. Guam Department of Agriculture.