

**JOB PROGRESS REPORT
DEVELOPMENT PROJECT SEGMENT**

STATE: Territory of Guam

PROJECT NO.: F-2-D

SEGMENT: 9

JOB TITLE: Development of Inshore Fishing Access Facilities (2331)

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

SUMMARY

During FY00, the municipal planning council of Talofofo held a meeting to discuss the fishing platform project. Division of Aquatic and Wildlife (DAWR) professional staff made a brief presentation to the council about constructing a fishing platform along Togcha Channel and Talofofo Bay. After reviewing the scope of the project, a unanimous decision was voted in to support the construction of the fishing platforms. The municipal planning council informed DAWR of the news, which was the final requirement to proceed on fishing platform construction.

BACKGROUND

Historically, reef flat fishing has been a way of life for the local people. Many locals still fish Guam's shallow waters both for food and recreation. Every year, a number of drowning and near-drowning events take place due to the hazards associated with fishing. To provide a safer environment and to both increase and enhance hook and line sportfishing opportunities, fishing platforms have been proposed.

Traditionally, local fishermen have constructed platforms in shallow sandy areas. Typically, these platforms have been fabricated with tangan-tangan (*Leucaena leucocephala*) poles with a floor of split bamboo lashed to the frame. Frequently, the platforms have two levels to their construction. The first level gets the person fishing off the water to keep dry and provide a vantage point to view any fish swimming in the area. The second level provides a place for the person fishing to sit and can be used to store fishing equipment not being used. The placements of the platforms are usually near channels or rips to take advantage of fish migrating over the reef to feed during tidal fluxes.

The concept of fishing platforms can be transformed to areas with hard substrata to increase fishing opportunities. Presently, there are favorite inshore and reef fishing areas where people fish because of the shoreline topography or water circulation patterns. Fishing platforms should be located in areas where people cannot fish regularly due to the existing conditions, in areas

that pose a safety problem for people who want to fish, or to make a temporary existing structure more permanent. Fishing platforms built to withstand the natural conditions of the area would allow usage in areas that are typically unsafe.

OBJECTIVES

- 1) To plan, design and construct inshore reef flat and cliff-side fishing access facilities on Guam.
- 2) To provide safe inshore fishing locations on Guam.

RESULTS

Application Process

DAWR updated the Guam Seashore Clearance fishing platform application to reflect the reduced number of sites (DAWR 1999) and was submitted to the Government of Guam Department of Land Management (DLM). The Application Review Committee (ARC) held a meeting for the project, and submitted their agency position statements to the Guam Seashore Protection Commission (GSPC) for review. GSPC held a hearing in July 2000, and approved the project with certain conditions that came from one of the agency position statements. DAWR discussed the issue with the agency, due to inappropriate conditions and sent a new position statement to GSPC for the final approval prior to construction.

Final Bidding

DAWR wrote a memorandum to the Department of Public Works (DPW), which included the scope of work and platform design drawings, to request for the bidding process to begin. DPW was to bid the project out in one phase (construction only), due to the previous selection of the fishing platform design by DAWR. Unfortunately, problems occurred with the previously drawn designs, so DPW and DAWR decided to bid the project out in two phases (design and construction), which used the drawings as a reference. During FY00, DAWR had two projects that needed to be bid out at DPW, but unforeseen obstacles delayed this process and allowed only one project with higher priority over the platforms to be bid out in FY00. Therefore, DAWR was forced to delay bidding out the fishing platform project until FY01.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Division recommends that the fishing platform program continue to improve safety and fishing opportunities for people fishing inshore areas. The project will go out to bid for design and construction during FY01 and will be completed before the end of the fiscal year. Five sites have been prioritized to receive fishing platforms and will be constructed based on available funding.

PROGRAM COSTS

The estimated cost of the project during FY00 was approximately \$497.

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LITERATURE CITED

Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources (DAWR). 1999. Job Progress Reports – Federal Aid to Fish and Wildlife Restoration. Guam Department of Agriculture, Mangilao.