

**JOB PROGRESS REPORT
COORDINATION PROJECT SEGMENT**

STATE: Territory of Guam

PROJECT NO.: FW-3C-6

SUB-PROJECT NO.: C-1

JOB NO.: 1

JOB TITLE: Coordination of Guam's Fish and Wildlife Programs (1630, 2630)

PERIOD COVERED: October 1, 1997 to September 30, 1998

OBJECTIVES

To plan, coordinate, supervise, and administer all fish and wildlife restoration and endangered species programs.

PROCEDURES

1. Supervise the planning and documentation of the Fish and Wildlife programs.
2. Administer all fiscal and budgetary matters and coordinate with the Central Accounting and Budget Office.
3. Administer all personnel matters including recruitment of off-island staff.
4. Represent the Division and Department of Agriculture in all matters pertaining to Fish and Wildlife Resources.

RESULTS

The Division experienced several staff changes during the year. The position changes within the respective section are as follows:

Administration: Ester Morris was hired as a Clerk-Typist III in December 1997. Lillian Rebanio began a new Limited-Term appointment as a Clerk I in February 1998.

Wildlife: The endangered species program experienced a number of staff changes during the year. Rebecca Caballero joined the staff as a Technician in January 1998 and Biologist Alicia Dimarucut and Technician Michelle Pleskonko resigned in October 1997 and Biologist Mark Richman resigned in January 1998.

Jeffrey Quitugua was promoted to Biologist I but then resigned in August 1998 to fulfil his Teacher Corps obligation with the Department of Education.

Biologist I Allen Searle was hired November 1997 to work in the brown tree snake program.

Fisheries: In January 1998, Catherine (Trina) Leberer was hired as a Fisheries Biologist II assigned to freshwater monitoring and Rodney Brent Tibbatts and Jaime Bass were hired as Technicians.

Division staff spent the first quarter preparing the annual Job Progress Reports on the research and other activities conducted during FY97 under its various federal programs and submitted them to the US Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Office.

Staff also devoted considerable effort to preparing the Federal Aid project documentation necessary to obligate funds for the Division's various programs during FY99. This documentation included annual Grant Agreements for 1) Project FW-3C, Guam Fish and Wildlife Coordination, which covers the administration and coordination of the Division's Federal Aid programs and which is jointly funded by Wildlife (PR) and sport fisheries (DJ) funds; 2) Project F-1R, Guam Sport Fish Investigations, which covers sport fish research and survey activity and which is funded with sport fisheries (DJ) funding; and 3) Project W-1R, Guam Wildlife Investigations, which covers wildlife research and survey activity and which is funded with wildlife (PR) funds. In addition, annual Grant Agreements and Amendments were prepared for the Division's various Fisheries Development and Endangered Species Investigations (Section 6) projects.

The Mariana Crow Recovery Team (MCRT) met on Guam in early October, 1998 to consider the Division's 1997 request to amend the FWS Endangered Species subpermit for the Marianas Crow to allow translocation of adults, chicks and eggs from Rota to Guam to stimulate reproduction was resubmitted. In response to MCRT recommendations, a detailed "Translocation, Artificial Incubation, Hand-Rearing, and Releasing Plan for the Aga, *Corvus kubaryi*" and an "Area-Wide Snake Control Plan" were prepared and submitted. Although the MCRT endorsed the permit request, as of the end of the reporting period the permit had not been issued by the FWS, pending prior approval by the governments of both the CNMI and Rota

The Division Chief and his staff represented the Division and the Department of Agriculture in all matters relating to fish and wildlife resources. This frequently entailed meetings with other agencies of the Government of Guam, various Federal agencies, and the military.

The Division's administration and coordination responsibilities are 50% funded by local funds.

The Chief served on the Area Committee for Oil Spill Response and continued to serve as a member of the Navy's Rehabilitation Advisory Board (RAB).. In addition, he is a member of the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee at Guam Community College. He is also a member of the Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission, as designated by law.

Division staff made a number of off-island trips related to Federal Aid and other programs. In many cases, funding support for this travel was provided through non-Federal Aid sources.

Division Chief Robert Anderson and Fisheries Supervisor Gerry Davis attended Region 1 Federal Aid Coordinators Conferences in Kona, Hawaii in November 1997 and in Homer, Alaska in September 1998.

Division Chief Robert Anderson participated in the Brown Tree Snake Research Symposium in Honolulu, Hawaii in July 1998. In conjunction with that trip he attended the Hawaii Conservation Conference, held the following week.

Division Chief Robert Anderson and Wildlife Biologist III Kelly Brock attended a meeting of all participating zoos in the Guam rail captive breeding program at the San Diego Zoo in January 1998. This meeting was organized and chaired by Ms. Brock and hosted by the

San Diego Zoo. At the meeting, Ms Brock was selected to serve as the Species Coordinator for the Guam Rail Species Survival Program.

Division Chief Robert Anderson, accompanied by Biologists III Kelly Brock and Tino Aguon, traveled to Rota in February, 1998 to meet with the Mayor and Resident Director of Land and Natural Resources to discuss the Guam rail and Mariana crow translocation projects. The three made a second trip to Rota in early May to meet with the Mayor and Resident Director as well as the CNMI Secretary of Land and Natural Resources and Director of Fish and Wildlife from Saipan.

Fisheries Supervisor Gerry Davis served on a Saltonstall-Kennedy Grant review panel in Silver Springs, Maryland funded by the National Marine Fisheries Service in October 1997. In conjunction with that trip he also attended a Federal Data Coordinating Committee (FDCC) meeting in Hawaii, funded by a WPacFIN grant and the Region 1 Federal Aid Coordinators Conference in Kona, partially funded by a Sport Fish Restoration grant.

In July 1998, he attended another FDCC meeting in Hawaii, funded by WPacFIN grant money. In conjunction with that trip, he participated in a Sportfishing Symposium in Kona, Hawaii, funded by the sponsors of that event, and then attended a Sea Turtle Recovery Workshop in Honolulu, funded by the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Fisheries Biologist III Andrew Torres attended a Bottomfish Plan Monitoring Team meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii in February 1998 funded by the Western Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Council.

Fisheries Biologist III Tom Flores attended Pelagic Plan Monitoring Team meeting in Honolulu in May 1998 funded by the Western Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Council.

Fisheries Biologist III Todd Pitlik attended a Coral Plan Monitoring Team meeting in Honolulu in September 1997 funded by the Western Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Council.

Biologist III Tino Aguon participated in the Brown Tree Snake Research Symposium in Honolulu, Hawaii in July 1998.

Biologist III Gary Wiles traveled to Saipan in January 1998 to assist the Fish and Wildlife Service with surveys of the nightingale reed-warbler. Travel was paid for by the Service.

Biologist III Kelly Brock, Wildlife Biologist II Grant Beauprez, made numerous trips to Rota in support of the Guam rail introduction project. In addition to radio telemetry monitoring of released rails, they conducted rodent and predator trapping. Several staff members including: Biologist IV Robert Beck, Biologists II Mark Richmond and Suzanne Medina, Biologist I Lamont Henderson, and Technicians Chris Jones and Jeffery Quitugua visited Rota to provide additional support to the rail project.

Biologist III Kelly Brock attended the American Zoological Association Conference in Tulsa, Oklahoma in September 1997.

The Division hosted a number of off-island visitors during the year.

PROGRAM COST: The estimated cost of the project under FW-3C-5 is \$65,000.

This report was prepared by: Robert D. Anderson.