

JOB PROGRESS REPORT DEVELOPMENT PROJECT SEGMENT

STATE: Territory of Guam

PROJECT NO: F-4-D
SEGMENT: 1

PROJECT TITLE: Marine Fish Habitat Improvement and Aggregating Devices (2323)

PERIOD COVERED: October 1, 1998 to September 30, 1999

OBJECTIVE

To enhance access to Guam's heavily-utilized nearshore pelagic fishing grounds through the continued development of a system of fish aggregating devices (FADs).

SUMMARY

Fish aggregating device (FAD) development activity under Project F-4-D focuses primarily on identification and survey of potential new sites including the initial deployment of FAD systems. The project also involves enhancement projects such as the production of FAD location maps for fishers and the improvement of the current FAD system design to extend the average time on station. FY99 activity under F-4-D consisted primarily of bottom contour surveys of two potential new sites: the shallow point of Rota Bank on July 15th, and Perez Bank on September 24th, 1999.

The recommendation to use the Indian Ocean "raft" as an economical, low-resistance and easily maintained alternative buoy system was tabled again in FY99 and will remain so until DAWR can obtain an Coast Guard exemption from having to install navigation lights on this particular FAD buoy design. The basis for the exemption is that the string of purse seine floats forming the raft poses little threat should a vessel collide into such a system. As depicted in Figure 2, the Indian Ocean raft system uses a flag to mark the location of the FAD. Present Coast Guard regulations requiring the installation of a navigation light would necessitate further modification of the raft to include another buoy on the terminal end of the buoy system to support a navigation light.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The F-4-D project to develop and enhance the Guam DAWR FAD program should be continued with the following recommendations for FY00:

1. Continue pursuit of program enhancement activities such as identification and permitting of potential new sites, and production of laminated FAD site maps and route planners for distribution to fishers.
2. Attach ribbons made of plastic strapping material to upper mooring chain of each FAD to further enhance bait and fish-attracting characteristics of the FADs.

3. Pursue exemption from Coast Guard of navigation light requirement for Indian Ocean raft buoy and then begin experimental use of this design at several sites.
4. Develop a practical form of cut protection for the upper 1,000 feet of nylon line, or incorporate a more cut-resistant line in the mooring system to replace the type of nylon line presently being used, given that most breaks continue to occur between 101 feet (where the upper mooring chain ends) down to about 750 feet.

PROGRAM COST

The FY99 estimated cost for the FAD project is \$3,045.

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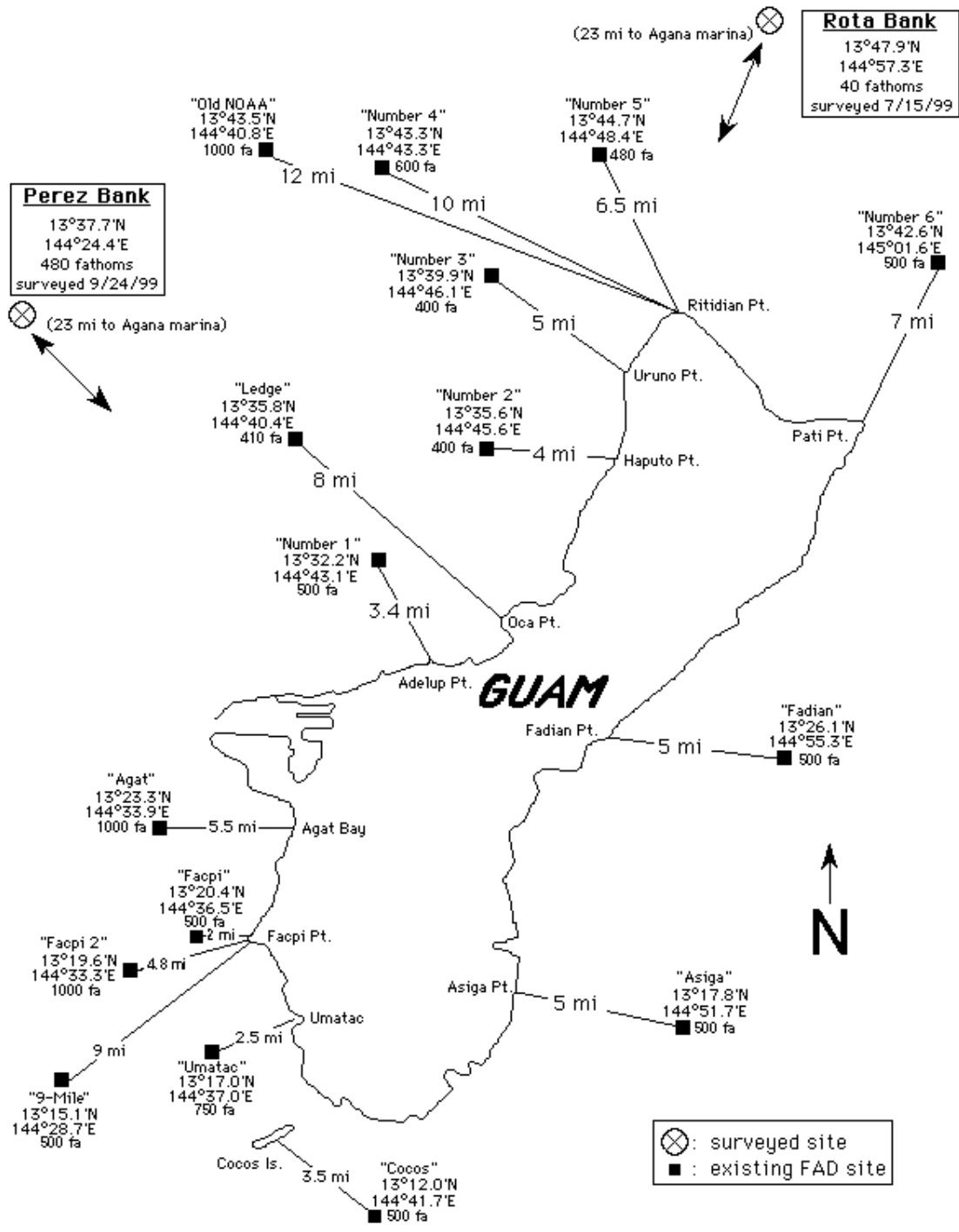


Figure 1. FAD Sites surveyed in FY99

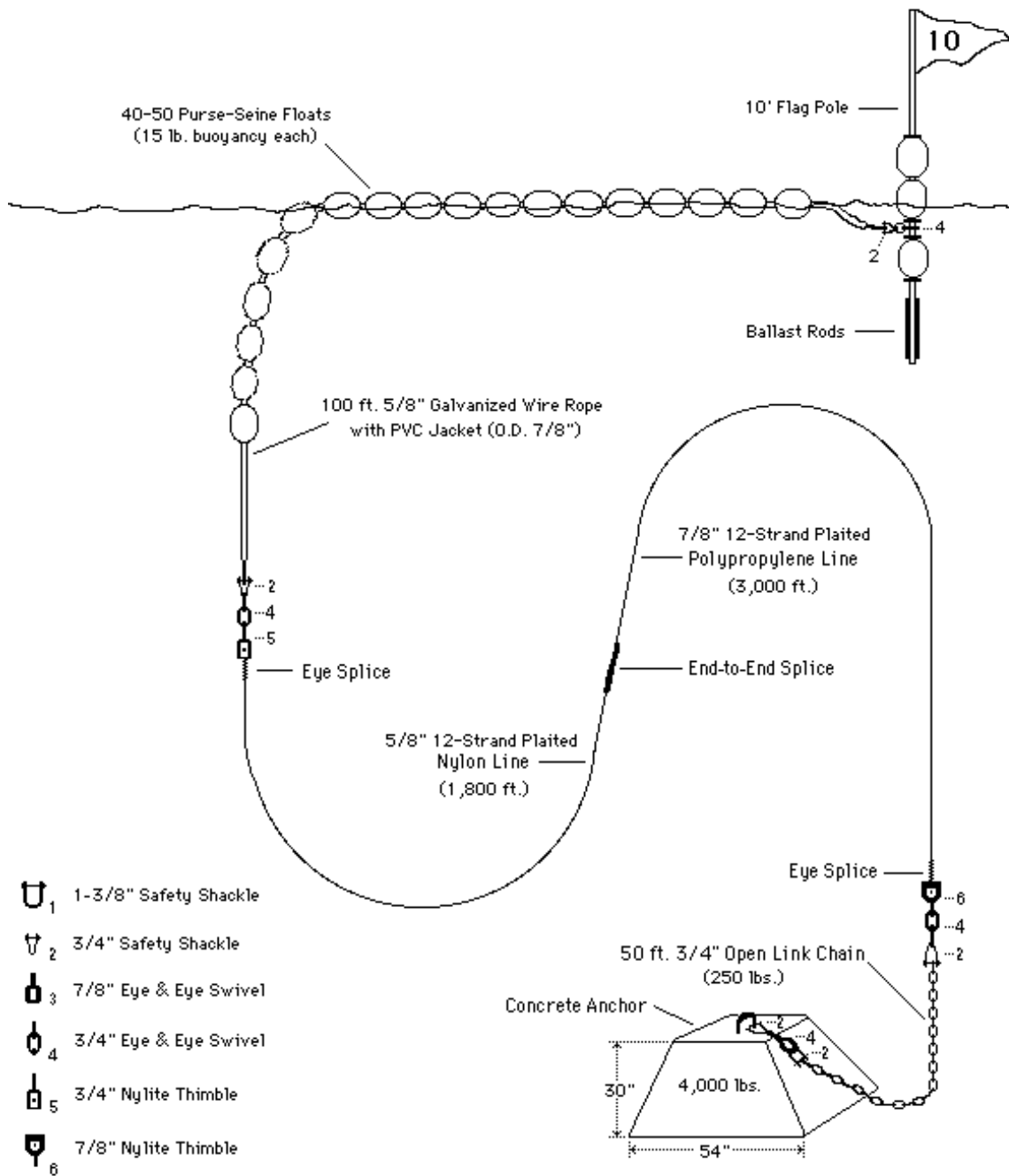


Figure 2. FAD with Indian Ocean Raft Buoy