

**JOB PROGRESS REPORT
INFORMATION/EDUCATION PROGRAM**

STATE: Territory of Guam

PROJECT NO.: FW-3C-7
SUB-PROJECT NO.: C-3
JOB NO.: 1

JOB TITLE: Public Information and Education on Guam's Fish and Wildlife
Restoration and Endangered Species Programs (2520, 2530, 1630)

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

SUMMARY

The Natural Resource Information and Education Officer position approved by the Governor and the Civil Service Commission during FY97 remained unfilled in FY99.

One fishing derby was held in FY99, which was a one-day event at Sirena Beach, AAFB. To date, five marine derbies have been co-sponsored by DAWR and AAFB.

The Division continues to distribute posters, flyers, pamphlets, coloring books and videos to the public and schools. The Division also continues to make classroom presentations at the island schools.

The Division continued to issue press releases on its projects and activities, set up static public displays, conduct press conferences, submit feature articles to the print media, make radio and television appearances, and respond to requests for information from students and members of the general public.

BACKGROUND

The Public Awareness and Conservation Education Program (PACE) was established in support of the Division's mission to protect, preserve, develop and enhance Guam's aquatic and wildlife resources. The program consists of school presentations dealing with aquatic and wildlife conservation, kids' fishing derbies, news releases, static public displays, public service announcements, press conferences, and feature articles the production of resource materials for classroom use including coloring books, activity guides, posters, and informational flyers.

Up until FY90, the program was facilitated primarily by a Public Information Officer (PIO), and periodically by biologist staff. During FY90, Conservation Officers (COs) began providing direct support to the PACE effort by conducting classroom visits. The PIO position was vacated in late FY96 and since then the classroom visitation portion of the program has been supported by Conservation, Fisheries, and Wildlife staff.

The effectiveness of the PACE programs and activities can best be measured by the community's continuing response in reporting suspected poachers and poaching activities to COs and police, the growing interest and demand for resource conservation materials, and the increase in teacher and student requests for fish and wildlife presentations. As in the past, residents continue to report bird sightings, bring in injured birds or birds presumed to

be endangered species, and generally to encourage the institution of more intensive management programs for Guam's fish and wildlife resources.

PROCEDURES AND RESULTS

Activities and efforts during FY99 included the following:

1. Presentations on endangered species, coral reef ecology (esp. toxic marine sea creatures) and fish and wildlife conservation in general, were delivered public and private elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools, university classes, and groups such as the 4-H Club, Cub Scouts, and Department of Parks and Recreation Summer Camp. These presentations were usually accompanied by a live Guam rail, fruit bat, brown tree snake, monitor lizard, or various marine organisms, as appropriate. Numbers of presentations were given in FY99 in the following: Conservation = 15 school presentations; Fisheries = 32 school presentations; and Wildlife = 33 school presentations, 6 hunter safety briefings (Anderson Airforce Base), and 2 slide shows (UOG). In addition, the Fisheries and Wildlife sections accommodated a film crew from France to tape a television segment on the effects of the brown tree snake on Guam.
2. The Division continues to distribute color posters on the reef and pelagic fishes of Guam to public upon request at the Division office and to replenish the posters previously supplied to every school classroom on Guam. The Sport Fish Restoration Program funded the development and production of the posters.
3. The Division continues to distribute color posters on the Dangerous and Poisonous Sea Creatures to the public upon request. The Guam Coastal Zone Management Program funded the production of the posters, while DAWR provided some of the photographs and technical support.
4. The Division continues to distribute color flyers of Guam's animal, plant and marine life to the schools and public upon request. The PACE program funded the development and production of the flyers and the Coastal Zone Management Program funded the printing.
5. The Division continues to distribute Mariana fruit bat (*Pteropus mariannus*) posters to the public upon request and replenish the posters previously supplied to every school classroom. The development and production of the posters were funded by the Wildlife Restoration Program; printing funds originated from the Bureau of Planning's Coastal Management Program through a grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.
6. The Division distributed all remaining copies of a coral reef ecology video (30-min) intended for use in public fisheries presentations and for distribution to schools, public libraries, museums, and other educational institutions. In addition, free copies of the video were available to the public upon request. The Sport Fish Restoration Program funded the production and supplies of the video.
7. Displays on the brown tree snake, Guam rail, and various other fish and wildlife conservation programs, were set up during Earth Week, the University of Guam Charter Day, and other similar events.
8. Division programs and activities continue to gain extensive media coverage. Newspaper and television feature articles on Guam rail, Micronesian kingfisher and

Mariana crow recovery efforts are periodically done, as are hunting and fishing activities and enforcement. In addition, a number of off-island media visited Guam during the year to film and document brown tree snake impact on Guam's natural resources and efforts to control its spread to other islands.

9. The Division participated in Youth Leadership Day activities and hosted one University of Guam special projects student as an intern.
10. Division staff developed press releases and feature articles and participated in media conferences on various conservation topics.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Fill vacant Natural Resource Information and Education Officer position as soon as possible in FY00.
2. Develop and implement a Hunter Education program to complement the existing PACE program utilizing Division biologists, COs, and community volunteers as instructors.
3. Develop and implement specific public education programs on the brown tree snake and the recovery programs for the Mariana crow, the Micronesian kingfisher, the Guam rail, and other endangered indigenous species. Incorporate the importance of cultural pride and concern for the recovery of indigenous wildlife in the presentations.
4. Develop a teacher-training program for aquatic education.
5. Continue to hold freshwater and marine fishing derbies and clinics for children. In addition, develop a new series of freshwater and marine fishing derbies, clinics, and other events for older youths, ages 13 through 17, and for adults.
6. Explore the possibilities of corporate sponsorship for specific endangered species recovery, conservation, and public awareness programs.
7. Continue aquatic and wildlife presentations at public and private schools, libraries, summer camps, after-school programs, and civic organizations.
8. Develop and implement workshops on various natural resource conservation topics for public and private school teachers.
9. Continue public awareness program through press releases, news articles, press conferences and other media to keep the public informed of the progress and accomplishments of the Division's fish, wildlife and endangered species programs.
10. Update existing and develop new public service announcements for television and radio.
11. Coordinate the Division's participation in mutual programs and projects with Guam's Department of Education, Guam Coastal Management Program, Sea Grant, the University of Guam Extension Service, Department of Parks and Recreation, the Guam Environmental Protection Agency, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U. S. National Park Service, and the Guam National Wildlife Refuge.

12. Develop a traveling exhibit program to present information on the Division's fish and wildlife, conservation and management programs, and natural resource conservation educational materials in village community centers.

PROGRAM COST

The estimated cost of the PACE project is \$20,000.

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