

Hawaii Longline Fishermen's Experiences with the Observer Program



Stewart Allen

Amy Gough

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Outline of Presentation

1. Sociological baseline study overview
2. Observer research objectives
3. Observer research results
 - a. Extent of the problem
 - b. Nature of the problem
 - c. Specific problems identified
4. Conclusions



Sociological Baseline of Hawaii Longline Industry

■ Methods

- Semi-structured interviews conducted in small groups or individually
- Quota sampling based on occupation, pier, ethnicity
- Interviewer and interpreter-community liaison are participant observers

■ Results

- 234 in-depth interviews representing 79 vessels
- Estimated 50% of owners and captains, 45% of crew



Observer Research Objectives

- Identify fishermen's issues and concerns regarding the observer program
- Evaluate issues and patterns of interaction with observers based on the ethnicity and role of the fisherman
- Provide results to
 - NOAA Fisheries
 - Observer Training Programs
 - Observers



Topics Discussed with Fishermen

1. Is there a problem with observers or the observer program, and if so, how would you describe it?

- Moderate
- Major

2. Nature of the problem?

- Problems with overall program
- Problems with specific individuals or incidents
- Problems with both



Topics Discussed with Fishermen

3. Identification of specific problems

- Don't trust monitoring
- Not reimbursed adequately
- Decreases on board efficiency
- Inadequately trained observers
- Female observers
- No outlet for venting concerns
- Safety concerns
- Accommodation concerns
- Food Requirements



Is there a problem?

- 184 Fishermen discussed observers
- When asked if problems occurred:
 - 44 percent (83) reported problems
 - 48 percent (91) reported no problems
 - 7 percent (15) reported observers were preferable



Is there a problem?

- 184 Fishermen discussed observers
- Two distinct groups:
 - Hawaii based owners, captains, and resident crew = 71 individuals
 - Filipino foreign laborer non-resident crew members = 113 individuals



Extent of Problem:

Hawaii based owners, captains, and resident crew

	Percent fishermen
No Problems	35%
Moderate Problems	32%
Major Problems	32%
Total	100%

Extent of Problem:

Hawaii based owners, captains, and resident crew

	Vietnamese-American	Korean-American	Euro-American
No Problems	21%	22%	70%
Moderate Problems	45%	17%	25%
Major Problems	33%	61%	5%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Extent of Problem:

Hawaii based owners, captains, and resident crew

	Vietnamese-American	Korean-American	Euro-American
No Problems	21%	22%	70%
Moderate Problems	45%	17%	25%
Major Problems	33%	61%	5%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Nature of Problem:

Hawaii based owners, captains, and resident crew

	Percent Fishermen
Problems with overall program	63%
Problems with specific individuals / incidents	15%
Problems with both	22%
Total	100%

Nature of Problem:

Hawaii based owners, captains, and resident crew

	Vietnamese-American	Korean-American	Euro-American
Problems with overall program	71%	57%	40%
Problems with specific individuals / incidents	4%	14%	60%
Problems with both	25%	29%	0%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Identification of Specific Problems:

Hawaii based owners, captains, and resident crew

- Fishermen were asked whether or not each of nine potential problem areas was actually present
- Results showed important differences across ethnic groups



	Vietnamese-American n=33	Korean-American n=18	Euro-American n=23
Don't trust enforcement	42%	44%	9%
Not reimbursed adequately	42%	28%	4%
Slows work effort/catch	27%	33%	9%
Inadequately trained observers	24%	22%	17%
Safety Concerns	27%	5%	0%
Female Observers	12%	50%	0%
No outlet for venting concerns	18%	33%	0%
Accommodations	12%	22%	0%
Food Requirements	9%	17%	0%

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Commonly Identified Problems: By Ethnic Group

	Vietnamese- American	Korean- American	Euro- American
Problem 1	Don't trust monitoring	Female Observers	Inadequately trained observers
Problem 2	Lack of adequate reimbursement	Don't trust monitoring	Don't trust monitoring
Problem 3	Observers decrease on- board efficiency	Observers decrease on- board efficiency	Observers decrease on- board efficiency

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Future Considerations

- Results could be used to assist and prepare individual observers
- Results could be used in assessing implementation and outreach on behalf of observer program
- New research could explore observer experiences and compare to fishermen opinions

