

JIMAR ANNUAL REPORT FOR FY 2011

P.I. NAME: Kim Holland, David Itano

NOAA OFFICE (*Of the primary technical contact*): PIFSC

NOAA SPONSOR NAME: Sam Pooley

PROJECT PROPOSAL TITLE: Hawaii Tuna Tagging 2

FUNDING AGENCY: NOAA

NOAA GOAL (*Check those that apply*):

- ☒ To protect, restore, and manage the use of coastal and ocean resources through ecosystem-based management
- ☐ To understand climate variability and change to enhance society's ability to plan and respond
- ☐ To serve society's needs for weather and water information
- ☐ To support the nation's commerce with information for safe, efficient, and environmentally sound transportation.
- ☐ Mission Support

PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT (*One paragraph*):

To elucidate the movement patterns, fisheries (harvest) patterns and biology (growth rates, mortality rates, etc.) of the three primary tuna species (yellowfin, skipjack and bigeye) that underpin coastal fisheries in the Main Hawaiian Islands. The project is an official "Sub-Regional Project" of the ongoing tagging program of the WCPFMC and data will be shared with this agency.

PROGRESS DURING FY 2011 (*One-two paragraphs*):

A modest level of tagging activity was achieved during the reporting period although access to the main tagging platform – the pole and line vessel *Nisei* – has proved problematic due primarily to low fishing activity by this vessel and the reluctance of the captain (n.b., *not* the owner) to accommodate scientific personnel during periods of slow fishing. Recent negotiations indicate that the situation will improve considerably in the very near future (see below). Tagging was conducted on an opportunistic basis from the *RV Opah* around Oahu FADs and from the *FV Hoku* during acoustic tagging excursions to the Cross Seamount. In the reporting period, 455 bigeye tuna, 167 Yellowfin and 75 skipjack were tagged around Oahu and at Cross Seamount. The recapture "hotline" is monitored daily and recaptures are being reported which indicates that the program's infrastructure is working as intended.

Limited access to the pole and line vessel *Nisei* has made a significant negative impact on the number of fish released around Oahu. Unfortunately, *Nisei* is the only remaining pole-and line vessel on Oahu. However, recent four-way negotiations involving the vessel owners, the vessel captain, United fishing Agency representatives and this project's scientific personnel indicate that access to the vessel will be facilitated in the future and it is reasonable to expect that tagging activity will greatly increase over the next few months.

PLANS FOR THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR (*One paragraph*):

Emphasis will be given to placing scientific personnel on the fishing vessel *Nisei* to accelerate the rate of tagging around Oahu.

**LIST OF PAPERS PUBLISHED IN REFERRED JOURNALS DURING FY 2011
OTHER PAPERS, TECHNICAL REPORTS, ETC.**

PUBLICATION COUNT *complete excel attachment (*JIMAR publications request*)

None

GRADUATES:

Names of students graduating with MS or PhD degrees during FY 2011; Titles of their Thesis or Dissertation

None

AWARDS:

Name of JIMAR employees or project receiving award during the period, and Name of award

None

PERSONNEL (*on Subcontracts*):

For projects that awarded subcontracts in the fiscal year, please provide the number of supported postdocs and students from each subgrantee.

IMAGES AND CAPTIONS:

*We will also be including images for the annual report. Please send two of your best high-resolution, color images (photo, graphic, schematic) as a **JPEG or TIFF (300 dpi)** with a caption for each image. If you do not have an electronic version of the image, a hardcopy version may be dropped off at the JIMAR office located in the Marine Sciences Building, Room 312*

- Caption 1:
- Caption 2:

ACRONYMS:

Please provide the complete descriptions for any acronyms used in any areas of the report. For example: UH (University of Hawaii)

WCPFMC - Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Management Commission

FADs – fish aggregating devices