

JIMAR ANNUAL REPORT FOR FY 1998

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Project Proposal Title: "Social Aspects of Pacific Pelagic Fisheries: Phase II -- The Hawai'i Troll and Handline Fishery"

Funding Agency: National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA

1. Purpose of the Project

This overarching goal of this multiphase project is a baseline sociocultural case study of the Hawai'i troll and handline pelagic fishery. *Phase I* objectives (achieved and reported in *Social Aspects of Pacific Pelagic Fisheries: Phase I - The Hawai'i Troll and Handline Fishery*, " SOEST 96-04, JIMAR Contribution 96-302) were to 1) describe the institutional environment of the fishery, 2) reveal the social organization of the fishery and 3) identify fishermen's perceptions of fishery issues. Another major research goal that was achieved involved the development of a conceptual framework for the continuation of cultural and social studies of the fishery.

2. Progress in FY 1998

This progress report describes work completed through June 1999 for Phase II of the project and provides a timeline for project completion.

a. Summary of Progress

The overall project focuses on the social and cultural nature of troll and handline pelagic fisheries in Hawai'i. In Phase I, a typology of fishing trips was developed to reflect "profit," "expense," "recreational," and other kinds of commitments to fishing. In Phase II, the conceptual framework is expanded and tested to complement a rational model of fishing involvement. Pelagic fishing is objectively coded as a work/leisure activity, and subjectively experienced as a sacred/mundane "action gamble." In Phase II, ethnographic fieldwork, survey research, and historical research provide a detailed context for further understanding and validation of fishing trip categories, and explication of social behavioral aspects of fishing among small vessel pelagic fishermen in Hawaii.

b. Phase Two Project Objectives

Objective One: Describe the social organization and selected cultural aspects of Hawai'i's troll and handline fishery.

Historical Context

A variety of sources were used during FY98 to assist in characterizing pertinent historical aspects of the pelagic fishery in Hawai'i. Interviews were conducted with elderly fishermen, kupuna and other knowledgeable individuals to supplement a wide variety of archival materials. The historical nature of the fishery has bearing on its contemporary manifestations in both a practical behavioral sense and a political sense, and so is given a significant level of treatment in Chapter Three of the project report.

Social Organization and Social Networks

Explication of the socio-demographic, cultural, and social structural aspects of Hawai'i's pelagic fishery remained focal points for the project during FY98. These aspects of Hawaii's pelagic fishery are described and explained throughout the project report. Analyses derive from existing databases such as the DOBR vessel registration database and DAR commercial landings data for 1997, from the Phase II survey effort and key person interviews, and from ongoing participant and non-reactive observation activities.

Much of the field activity in FY98 involved intensive participant observation in fishing trips along the Waianae Coast of Oahu, and the Kona Coast of Hawaii. This required development of rapport with local captains to insure a high level of trust between fishermen and researcher and has yielded rich information about the lives of local pelagic fishermen and fishing-related behaviors. The field researcher also took on a position as Secretary for the Waianae Boat Fishing Club, allowing for an insider's view of the social behavioral aspects of the troll fishing club in Hawaii, and a hands-on understanding of fishing and fishermen along the Waianae Coast. Analyses provided in the project report thus benefit from a significant level of direct involvement in the Hawaiian version of pelagic fishing.

Distribution Networks

Quantitative data from the project survey complemented by participation in the local fishing lifestyle has yielded in-depth analysis of social interaction in fish marketing processes, sharing and reciprocity within nuclear and extended family

relations, and ceremonial and other social aspects of fish consumption. This analysis is reported in Chapter Five of the project report.

Ethnic Interactions and Important Fishery Issues as Perceived by Fishermen

A range of issues perceived as important by pelagic fishermen emerged from analysis of the project survey and from other research methods used during FY98. The in-depth qualitative component of the project conducted during FY98 allowed for a detailed description of issues relevant to the concerns of local fishermen. Of note among these is the problematic relationship between local fishermen and Vietnamese nationals who have come to fish in Hawaii. This situation and the general process of adaptation to local customs and traditions is reviewed in Chapter Eight of the project report.

Hawaiian Fishing Traditions and Ecological Knowledge

The idea of "tradition" in pelagic fishing is explicated throughout the project report, and with particular emphasis in Chapter Nine. This chapter addresses nascent efforts toward self- or community management of fishery resources in Hawaii wherein traditional conservation measures are incorporated into modern management plans. Although such efforts have thus far focused on netri-pelagics such as opelu, the fishermen in question see the offshore waters as an integral ecological unit including migrating pelagics and seasonal habitat, with implications for future management of pelagics across the State.

Objective Two: Contribute to Definitions of Analytical Categories of Fishing and Fishermen

Empirical findings suggest that potential future pelagic fisheries management based on the "type" of fishing undertaken is subject to possible mis-typing of participants, and that due consideration of the unique nature of pelagic fishing in Hawai'i (and the Pacific generally) should precede development of categories of fishermen and development of criteria for being included in such categories. There appears to be relatively few active pelagic fishery participants who do not at some point sell some of their catch for profit or to pay for trip expenses. Yet it would be inaccurate to label many such fishermen as distinctly "commercial" fishermen or to regulate their activities as such since these same individuals typically keep some, and in certain cases, most of their catch for subsistence or to share with family, friends or neighbors. Further, all of these fishermen enjoy fishing and the label "recreational" might be as accurate or (inaccurate) as "commercial." On the other hand, there are many fishermen who sell most of their catch, but who also fish for enjoyment, for the sake of camaraderie, for the chance for the chance to keep some of their catch to eat or share.

The lines characterizing motivation for fishing are often blurred, as noted in Chapter Five of the project report which explicates the fact that for small vessel pelagic fishing in Hawai'i, the kind of fisherman one is often depends on emerging factors -- whether fish are being caught, and if so, how big they are, how many, the market prices potentially received, and so on. If no fish are coming up, perhaps the fishing is for fun. If lots of little ones or a couple of big ones are coming up, perhaps it is a subsistence trip with recreational benefits. If big fish are being caught and lots of them, maybe they will end up on the auction block or being sold along the roadside -- the trip will be paid for, with money in the pocket, and a good time had. Since any given fisherman may engage in any of these kinds of trips, depending on emerging conditions, it would be extremely difficult, perhaps spurious to label (and manage) an individual as any given type. Woven through and around this emerging and integrated definition is the fact that, as a fishermen of any type, one participates in or is aware of the Hawaiian style of fishing in which certain methods prevail, fish is often shared with enthusiasm and not necessarily with concern for reciprocity (though such is common), camaraderie between groups of participants is enjoyed, and talking story about the trip is essential. It may be more appropriate then, to manage pelagic fisheries in Hawai'i from the perspective of "Hawaiian style," and its inherent variations, as noted in the concluding chapter of the report

Objective Three: Describe the Institutional Environment in which fishery management policies are designed and implemented

This objective was addressed in Phase One, and is elaborated in Phase II only insofar as such is required for provision of adequate context. The focus of Phase II remains on the fisherman and fishing lifestyle rather than on the manager and institutional environment; the latter is reviewed only as needed to explicate the opportunities and constraints of management as such affect the fishermen.

Objective Four: Refine a Theoretical Framework for Ongoing Research of the Social and Cultural Aspects of Pelagic Fishing in Hawai'i

The Durkheimian theoretical model used to explore motivational factors for fishing and the sacred and mundane factors therein has proved highly effective for understanding the interrelated and emergent nature of motive and its relationship to trip outcome for Hawai'i's pelagic fishermen. This analysis appears in various portions of the project report, with directed focus in Chapter Ten. The Durkheimian model has management implications for Hawaii's pelagic fishery and for fisheries in general, as noted in the concluding chapter of the project report.

c. Timeline

In sum, Phase II of the project has met its primary objectives and the project report will be completed by the end of the August 1999. Final analysis of data is being conducted at the time of this writing; the report is in final phases of preparation. A Draft Final version of the report will be distributed for review to individuals active in state and federal management of pelagics during late August, and the Final report will be submitted upon receipt and address of those comments.