

**JIMAR, PFRP ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT  
FY 2001**

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**Project Proposal Title:** Pelagic Fisheries Research Program: Program Management

**Funding Agency:** NOAA

**1. Purpose of the project and indicative results.**

To manage the activities of the PFRP, solicit and implement new research proposals, and promote science-based management of fisheries for highly migratory fisheries in the western Pacific Ocean.

**2. Progress during FY 2001. Provide a thorough discussion of accomplishments and problems.**

Commitments to fund existing projects, as well as funding three other projects deferred from the 1999 request for proposals, precluded a request for proposals in 2000.

The productivity of PFRP research projects remains high. Approximately twelve of the forty-four presentations at the 52<sup>nd</sup> Lake Arrowhead Tuna Conference (May 21-24, 2001) were based on PFRP funded projects.

A review of the PFRP economics and social sciences research projects was conducted in October 2000. One recommendation of the review panel was establishment of graduate assistantships in fisheries research. Two assistantships were made available for UH graduate students entering the University in 2001, one in economics and one in fisheries oceanography. The fisheries oceanography position was easily filled, but no suitable candidates were found for the economics position.

There is little scientific information available to guide efforts to reduce the incidental catch of marine turtles by longline fisheries. A working group consisting of turtle researchers and fishing industry representatives was created to begin to address this issue. PFRP sponsored two working group meetings that were held in September 2000 and January 2001. Reports are available.

A PFRP PI meeting was held in December 2000 on a topic that connects many PFRP projects, "Exploitation, predation, and scales of spatial variability in pelagic fisheries". Most of the presentations from the PI meeting are available on the PFRP website.

The proceedings of the PFRP-hosted "Symposium on Tagging and Tracking Marine Fish with Electronic Devices" (February 2000) will be published under the title "Electronic Tagging and Tracking In Marine Fisheries" (edited by John Sibert and Jennifer Nielsen) by Kluwer Academic Publishers as the first volume in a new series entitled "Reviews: Methods and Technologies in Fish Biology and Fisheries". The book describes the current technology used for tracking and tagging of marine fishes. It includes

descriptions of the use of these methods to identify fish habitat, to monitor physiology and behavior *in situ*, and theoretical models relating individual behaviors to population dynamics. It is the first synthesis of tagging and tracking methods used on marine fish and documents the state of the art of modern electronic tagging and tracking techniques. It will be the standard reference in this field for years to come and will be consulted by researchers planning to use these techniques in the future. Seasoned researchers as well as beginning graduate students will find this volume an indispensable reference source.

The PFRP Program Manager was appointed Chair of the Methods Working Group of the Standing Committee on Tuna and Billfish (affiliated with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Noumea).

### **3. Plans for the next fiscal year.**

1. Conduct a new round of project solicitations.
2. Facilitate international collaboration in research on pelagic fisheries.
3. Explore the possibility of scientist – fisherman collaboration in research with emphasis on marine turtle conservation.