

**JIMAR, PFRP ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT
FY 2004**

P.I. Name: John Sibert

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 2004. Provide a thorough discussion of accomplishments and problems.

The PFRP completed another round of proposal solicitation. Thirty-two letters of intent, totaling over \$3 million in requests were received. The PFRP Steering Committee invited 20 full proposals, and 18 proposals totaling \$1.5 million in requests were received. The funds available for new projects was roughly \$800,000, somewhat less than anticipated, and 12 proposals were funded with some deferred to FY2005.

The newly created Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center (PIFSC) has taken on responsibility for administration of the PFRP from the Southwest Center. Some lack of understanding of the process and miscommunication between PIFSC and the PFRP caused some problems in establishing the PFRP budget.

The PFRP remains active in international tuna research and management. The PFRP Program Manager was a member of the United States Delegation to the Fourth and Fifth Sessions of the Preparatory Conference for the Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in Western and Central Pacific and to the Second meeting of the WCPFC Science Coordinating Group. Several PFRP scientists made presentations to the sixteenth meeting of the Standing committee on Tuna and Billfish in Mooloolaba, Australia, July 7 – 15, 2004. The PFRP Program Manager is Chair of the SCTB Methods Working Group and has been coordinating evaluation of stock assessment methods and specific stock assessment results. PFRP Researcher David Itano is Chair of the SCTB Fishing Technology Working Group. Several PFRP scientists participated in the drafting the science plan new GLOBEC program, “Climate Impacts On Oceanic Top Predators” (CLIOTOP) expected to become active in 2004.

The 2003 PFRP PI meeting featured a special session on data rescue and sharing. The data rescue presentations emphasized the difficulties of interpreting old data in general and an invited presentation on pre-WWII Japanese fisheries suggested that it may be impossible to reconstruct the early history of Japanese fisheries. An invited presentation on data sharing provide useful guidance for PFRP initiatives to create data sharing mechanisms. A web site for sharing data from electronic tags is under development.

The PFRP actively promotes graduate education in fisheries. The PFRP Program Manager assisted in creating the proposal for a new Coastal and Marine Resources graduate degree program. The University has granted Authority to Plan and the newly established curriculum coordinator is funded by the PFRP. The first students for the CMR program are expected in Fall 2005.

The PFRP currently supports two graduate research assistants. Brittany Graham, a PhD candidate in the Oceanography Department, continues to be a productive member of the new pelagic food web project, "Trophic structure and tuna movement in the cold tongue-warm pool pelagic ecosystem of the equatorial Pacific". Richard Hall, a Masters candidate in the Geography Department, is expected to complete his project to explore the potential rolls for marine protected areas in the management of highly migratory species in 2004.

3. Plans for the next fiscal year.

Work closely with the PIFSC to improve budgetary arrangements and coordination of research programming.

Facilitate international collaboration in research on pelagic fisheries.