

## JIMAR ANNUAL REPORT FOR FY 2008

P.I./SPONSOR NAME: John Sibert

NOAA OFFICE (Of the primary technical contact): PIFSC

PROJECT PROPOSAL TITLE: Pelagic Fisheries Research Program: Program Management

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

PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT (One paragraph): Manage the activities of the PFRP, solicit and implement new research proposal, and promote science based management of fisheries for highly migratory fisheries in the western Pacific Ocean.

PROGRESS DURING FY 2008:

The PFRP allocation for FY 2008 was less than half of historical allocations. Thus, for the second consecutive year, there was no request for new proposals. Many of the projects that were underway in 2007 reached their scheduled termination dates so that there will be very few projects in place in FY2009.

As a consequence of these shortfalls, the frequency of the PFRP Newsletter has been decreased from four to three issues per year, and the annual PFRP PI Meeting has been shortened to one and a half days.

Inertia from on-going projects enabled PFRP principal investigators to contribute 8 presentations to the 59th Annual Tuna Conference in May 2008. PFRP researchers also made presentations at the following meetings:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> International Symposium on Tagging and Tracking Marine Fish with Electronic Devices, October 8-11, 2007, Donostia-San Sebastian, Spain;
- PFRP Principal Investigators Meeting, Nov. 13-14, 2007, Honolulu, HI;
- 1<sup>st</sup> GLOBEC CLIOTOP Symposium, December 3-7, 2007, La Paz, Mexico.

*Progress on goals from FY 2007:*

1. Conduct a request for proposals and fund new projects consistent with the priorities identified in report of the 2005 research priorities workshop, "Pacific Ocean Connections: Priorities for pelagic fisheries research in the Twenty-first Century"

No RFP was conducted because of insufficient funds.

2. Facilitate international collaboration in research on pelagic fisheries.

The project, "Scaling Up: Linking FAD-associated Local Behavior of Tuna to Regional Scale Movements and Distribution" collaborated with scientists from Secretariat of the Pacific Community in joint tagging projects in the Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea.

The PFRP Program Manager was a keynote speaker at American Fisheries Society's Fish Tagging Symposium on "Spatial analysis, modelling with tagging data, and implications for Fisheries Management" in Auckland, New Zealand in February 2008.

The PFRP Program Manager was invited to make a presentation to a special session on "Challenges to [tuna fishery] Management in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" at the 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Tuna Conference in May 2008.

PFRP staff and researchers participated in the Scientific Committee and Specialist Working Groups of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission. The fourth regular session of the WCPFC Scientific Committee will meet 11-22 August 2008 in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.

The PFRP has taken a leadership role in the ADMB Project, an international effort to ensure that the AD Model Builder software will be maintained in the future. (This software is used in over 200 fisheries management agencies for statistical modelling and assessment of fish population around the world; see <http://admb-project.org/>.)

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

1. Conduct a request for proposals and fund new projects consistent with the priorities identified in report of the 2005 research priorities workshop, "Pacific Ocean Connections: Priorities for pelagic fisheries research in the Twenty-first Century"

2. Facilitate international collaboration in research on pelagic fisheries.

The PFRP will initiate a major tuna tagging project in Hawaii, "Hawaii Tuna Tagging Project II". The goals of this project are to: (1) update estimates of fishing mortality (F), 'natural' mortality (M) and movement parameters for skipjack, yellowfin and bigeye tuna in Hawaiian waters; (2) investigate connectivity of "Hawaiian" skipjack, yellowfin and bigeye to the broader WCPO; (3) document the FAD-associated behavior of skipjack

tuna. These research goals are congruent with the research and management goals of the WCPFC and WESPAC, and the HTTP II will be designed and implemented as a compatible sub-regional component of the broader-scale Pacific Tuna Tagging Programme (PTTP) currently being initiated by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community on behalf of the WCPFC.

LIST OF PAPERS PUBLISHED IN REFERRED JOURNALS DURING FY 2008, in the following format:

See attached PFRP Management Publications List.

OTHER PAPERS, TECHNICAL REPORTS, ETC.:

See attached PFRP Management Publications List.

GRADUATES (Names of students graduating with MS or PhD degrees during FY 2008; Titles of their Thesis or Dissertation):

Brittany Graham. Dissertation topic: Trophic Dynamics and Movements of Tuna in the Tropical Pacific Ocean Inferred from Stable Isotope Analyses.

AWARDS (List awards given to JIMAR employees or to the project itself during the period):

PUBLICATION COUNT (Total count of publications for the reporting period and categorized by NOAA lead author and Institute (or subgrantee) lead author and whether it was peer-reviewed or non peer-reviewed (not including presentations):

	JI Lead Author	NOAA Lead Author	Other Lead Author
Peer Reviewed			
Non-Peer Reviewed			

PERSONNEL:

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: