P.I./SPONSOR NAME: Kevin Weng

NOAA OFFICE (Of the primary technical contract): NMFS PIFSC

PROJECT PROPOSAL TITLE:
Biology and Habitat Use of Monchong (*Eumegistis illustris*) at Cross Seamount, Hawaii

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): Monchong is a generic local name given to two deep water pomfret species; the sickle pomfret, *Taractichthys steindachneri*, and the lustrous pomfret, *Eumegistis illustris*. The sickle pomfret is a common incidental catch in pelagic longline fisheries throughout the North Pacific. The lustrous pomfret exhibits fidelity towards deep slope or seamount habitats and are generally caught by short-line or handline. Both monchong species are valued by Hawaii seafood wholesale and processing firms who have successfully promoted it in the fresh market and restaurant trade. These species have become an increasingly important component of local Hawaii fisheries in terms of commercial fishery landings and sales in recent years. In the case of the lustrous pomfret, most of the catch occurs at Cross Seamount, a smallish seamount 8 km in diameter at the summit located 290 km south of Honolulu. Concerns over the sustainability of current pomfret removal rates with respect to recruitment from this limiting habitat have prompted the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, in coordination with PIFSC, to launch an investigation into expanding knowledge of pomfret life history and ecology. This monchong study will occur in conjunction with the Hawaii Tuna Tagging Project 2, a PFRP-funded project that is an integrated component of a Pacific wide tuna tagging and assessment program being implemented by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Pacific Tuna Tagging Project (PTTP). Tagging programs are widely recognized as important tools for understanding the population dynamics, dispersal patterns and fisheries interactions of fish populations.
and produce additional data inputs necessary to improve stock assessments and predictive models.

PROGRESS DURING FY 2010 (One-two paragraphs, including a comparison of the actual accomplishments to the objectives established for the period, and the reasons for the slippage if established objectives were not met):

We have conducted two cruises to Cross Seamount. During April 2010 Cross trip the acoustic monitoring array was placed on the summit of Cross Seamount. We also tagged 11 total monchong, 7 of which were tagged with V13P tags. Several monchong were dissected and gonads taken, as well as stomach and muscle samples for a study of pelagic ecosystems being conducted by a collaborator. During the second cruise in late May 2010, 3 monchong were detected with a VR2 hung over the side while drifting at night over Cross, with depth readings indicating that the tags were up in the water column and moving.

PLANS FOR THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR (One paragraph):

Further tagging of monchong using acoustic and conventional tags. Retrieval and download of the VR2 acoustic monitoring array at cross seamount.

LIST OF PAPERS PUBLISHED IN REFERRED JOURNALS DURING FY 2010, in the following format: (Author or authors with last name and initials, publication year: Article title. Journal name, volume, page range.) For example: Charney, J.G., and A. Eliassen, 1964: On the growth of the hurricane depression. J. Atmos. Sci., 21, 68-75.

None.

OTHER PAPERS, TECHNICAL REPORTS, ETC.:

None.

GRADUATES (Names of students graduating with MS or PhD degrees during FY 2010; Titles of their Thesis or Dissertation):

None. An incoming student in the oceanography department will be working on this project.

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

None.
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):

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PERSONNEL (on Subcontracts):
For projects that awarded subcontracts in the fiscal year, please provide the number of supported postdocs and students from each subgrantee.

N/A

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)