

Sociological Baseline of Hawaii's Longline Fishery

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Objectives

- Compile a comprehensive social profile of the longline fishing industry of Hawaii
- Provide social and cultural information to decision-makers on regulatory impacts and implementation strategies

Methods

- Semi-structured interviews with longline industry participants conducted in small groups or individually at diverse times and locations;
- Owners, captains, crew, support businesses
- Quota sampling based on role in industry, pier, ethnicity; adaptive sample size based on information gained and time available

Interview Schedule

- Current position in the longline industry, job satisfaction, what they like most and least
- History and background; how they came to be involved with the Hawaii longline industry
- Obstacles faced, responses and impacts; future plans for involvement in the industry
- Level of information regarding fishing regulations and management, information sources, and perceptions of its adequacy and accuracy

Interview Schedule

- Use, effectiveness and efficiency of fishing regulations
- Personal involvement in management issues affecting the industry and suggestions for fishery managers
- Perceptions of quality of life and their community
- Social networks they or members of their households are a part of, both within and outside the longline industry
- Demographic characteristics such as household size and composition, proportion of household income from fishing, ethnicity

Activities To Date

- Amy Gough hired to conduct the field work (interviews) and analyses
- Four interpreters/community liaisons hired to assist with the interviews
- Approval from the University's Committee on Human Studies obtained for the research, which was granted an exemption from Department of Health and Human Services regulations

Activities To Date

- Interviews completed with 160 individuals from approximately 50% of the longline vessels based in Hawaii (and 5 vessels now based in California)
- Interviews with Vietnamese and Korean owners and captains, and Filipino crew
- Qualitative (text) and quantitative data bases (SPSS) developed
- Paper accepted for presentation at 4th World Fisheries Congress

Characteristics of Interviewees

- Pier 17 majority are Vietnamese owned and operated vessels
- Kewalo Basin majority are Korean owned and operated vessels
- Majority of crew members at both locations are Filipino laborers
- Characteristics of these two location-based groups have similarities, yet face and approach industry operations differently

Background of Filipino Crew

- The majority are from fishing families or communities in the Philippines
- An estimated half have education or training in a marine related field



Background of Filipino Crew

- The majority have considerable experience as fishermen outside of the Philippines
- Have worked in Guam, South Africa, Taiwan, Latin America, California, in variety of fleets.



Recruitment of Filipino Crew

- Hired through 1 of 4 manning agencies and commit to a one-year (extendable) contract utilizing a transit visa
- Pay is monthly salary plus trip bonuses plus potential for extra earnings
- Transit status does not allow workers to leave pier

Work Status of Filipino Crew

- Most 2003 arrivals came to Hawaii via California (easier access to U.S.)
- Immigration regulations and enforcement have affected agents' ability to provide Filipino crew



Job Satisfaction of Filipino Crew

- Majority would prefer working on cargo vessel to fishing in HI's longline industry
- Majority prefer HI longline to other fisheries (Japanese fleet in Guam)



Job Satisfaction

- Many prefer tuna to swordfishing
- Those with larger families or more education are less satisfied with the pay



Situational Variables Affecting Job Satisfaction

- Differences in work situation between Pier 17 (Vietnamese style) and Kewalo (Korean style)
- Crew members have considerably different relationships with a local community of Filipinos

Next Phase

- Continue interviews at Kewalo, including Micronesian crew
- Conduct interviews with owners, crew, captains, at Pier 35
- Shoreside suppliers
- Qualitative and quantitative analyses

