

Hawaii Fisheries Disaster Relief Program
Final Report

1. **Researcher's Name: Gary J. Dill**
Affiliation: NWHI Bottomfishing Hui
Address: 828-A Judd St., Honolulu, HI 96817
Phone number: 845-6927
E-mail: marlin564@yahoo.com

2. **Title of Project: Tagging of NWHI Uku (Grey Snapper)**

3. **Fishery Targeted: NWHI bottomfishery**

4. **Award received: \$356,829**

Actual amount spent: \$356,829

5. **Project Objectives: To place conventional dart tags in up to 5,000 NWHI uku; to place sonic transmitters in up to 90 of these fish; to deploy 9 underwater sonic receivers on nine different banks.**

6. **Describe how the objectives were met.** Conventional dart tags were placed in 2714 uku caught from the Commercial Fishing Areas of 12 banks in the NWHI. Twenty-two of these fish were subsequently recaptured, with the recaptures occurring on 7 banks. All recaptures were obtained on the same bank of the original capture. Of the 22 recaptures, 11 were brought to market and 11 re-released, of which seven were given a second tag. Additionally, 131 uku caught on 5 banks have been surgically implanted with sonic transmitters, in the belly cavity, with one recapture (which was re-released) from the same bank as the original capture. Six underwater sonic receivers were deployed on six banks in the NWHI.

7. **Discuss differences between work anticipated in your proposal and work that was actually completed.**
The original goals of this project were subjected to changes, mostly externally derived, as the project unfolded. The original goal of 5,000 dart tags was reduced to 3,000 due to the NWHI Monument's refusal to permit uku tagging within the Special Preservation Area at Necker, where up to 2,000 tags were originally planned. This change resulted in a shift in project emphasis to more sonic transmitters, and allowances were made for up to 270 sonic transmitters. Project funding limits eventually determined that only a total of 180 sonic tags could be purchased for implantation. The Monument issued a permit specific to the sonic transmitters and the sonic receivers on May 14, 2008,

over a year after the original permit application date.

Although the Monument permit is valid for one year, the FDRP required project termination on June 30, 2008, thus giving about six weeks to implant the transmitters and deploy the receivers. By the project end date, six receivers have been deployed, with the final three planned for sites at Kauai, Niihau and Kaula Rock. The 131 transmitters deployed thus far are all in the NWHI, leaving 49 planned for both the NWHI and the three sites in the Main Hawaiian Islands.

8. **Discuss differences between expected and actual costs.** Total actual costs equaled total expected costs. Changes in project emphases, however, required changes in line items. Savings in Personnel and Boat Use Subsidies of approximately \$73,000 were used to offset increased costs of the additional sonic transmitters, VR3 receivers and release mechanisms of almost \$80,000, with the remaining overage being provided by other line item underages.

9. **List all publications, posters, brochures, and other informational material published with project funding. Submit copies of publications to JIMAR**
Posters, 8 1/2" x 11" and 9" x 17," informing the public about the Uku Tagging Project and what procedures to follow if a tagged fish is caught, were printed and distributed around the state.