

**FISHERIES DISASTER RELIEF PROGRAM (FDRP)
ANNUAL REPORT FOR FY 2007**

P.I. Name: Gary J. Dill

P.I. Address: 828-A Judd St., Honolulu, HI 96817

FDRP Project Title and Project No.: FDRP Ciguatera Toxin Testing of NWHI Kahala
(Amberjack)
No. 655946

Funding Agency: NOAA

NOAA Goal (Check those that apply):

- To protect, restore, and manage the use of coastal and ocean resources through ecosystem-base 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

1. Purpose of the Project (one paragraph)

To involve NWHI bottomfishermen in a meaningful research project designed to assist them in the marketing of the fish Kahala. This research will determine the incidence, if any, of ciguatera toxin in kahala, or amberjack, caught and sampled in the allowable fishing grounds of the NWHI.

2. Progress during FY 2007 (One-two paragraphs, including a comparison of the actual accomplishments to the objectives established for the period, and the reasons for slippage if established objectives were not met):

An agreement for services to support this project was finalized in late January, 2007. The original project design called for a Fishery Technician to travel with the bottomfishermen on their regular trips to the NWHI, sampling kahala caught by the fishermen, and testing those samples on board the vessel. The testing device intended for use was the "Cigua-Check" kit commercially available from Toxitec, Inc. After meeting with Dr. Joanne Ebesu of Toxitec for training aboard a bottomfishing vessel moored in Kewalo Basin, it was determined that this method was not feasible at sea. Arrangements were then made with Dr. Yoshitsugi Hokama of the University of Hawaii's pathology laboratory to test our samples at the lab. The samples are now

being obtained directly from the fishermen, with relevant data collected by them and both samples and data sheets being given to the PI. To date 120 samples have been obtained and are undergoing testing. This compares to the project's original goal of 500 fish sampled.

Although this method is working satisfactorily, it is intended that the Fishery Technician will perform additional sampling and data recording when aboard each vessel.

Recruitment for the Fishery Technician position is ongoing, again, since the original person selected for the job, Mr. Tom Swenarton, took another job three days before his starting date of June 1. Budgetary considerations may allow an expansion of the project goal of 500 samples, which would yield a better statistical base.

3. Plans for project completion:

Plans include continuing to obtain samples and data directly from the fishermen, hire a Fishery Technician to help with this collection, and, possibly, increase the number of samples to that level allowed by the budget.

4. List of papers published in refereed journals during FY 2007.

None.

5. Other papers, technical reports, meeting presentations, etc.

None.

6. Graduates (Names of students funded under this project who are graduating with MS or PhD degrees during FY 2007. Provide titles of their thesis or dissertation):

N/A