

Hawaii Fisheries Disaster Relief Program
Final Report

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- 2. Title of Project: Testing of NWHI Kahala for Ciguatera Toxin**

- 3. Fishery Targeted: NWHI Bottomfishery**

- 4. Award received: \$136,583**

Actual amount spent: \$136,583

- 5. Project Objectives:** To test a minimum of 500 NWHI fish (kahala) for the presence of ciguatera toxin.

- 6. Describe how the objectives were met.** NWHI bottomfishers caught the kahala in the Commercial Fishing Areas of the NWHI, samples were obtained, preserved and subsequently delivered to a University of Hawaii laboratory for testing. Of the 791 fish from 17 banks that were tested, 542 tests have been verified with additional tests. Of these 542, 15 fish from 6 banks were found to contain the ciguatera toxin. The remaining 249 sample test results are subject to further verification.

- 7. Discuss differences between work anticipated in your proposal and work that was actually completed.**
The original goal of 500 fish sampled was exceeded (542), with an additional 249 tests ready for further verification testing. Cost savings resulting from a change in sampling methodology provided for testing more than 500 fish, thus expanding the sampling base.

- 8. Discuss differences between expected and actual costs.** Total costs have met expectations completely. Personnel cost were slightly higher than anticipated due to an expanded project year and additional workload, and testing costs were higher using the laboratory rather than field test kits. These extra costs were met with lower-than-expected vessel use fees.

9. List all publications, posters, brochures, and other informational material published with project funding. Submit copies of publications to JIMAR.

A display poster (approximately 4'x6') with a chart of the NWHI depicting locations of the kahala caught for testing; a picture of the fish; and brief narratives regarding The Science, The Fish, and The Fishermen, was made and exhibited at the Second Hawaii Fishing and Seafood Festival in 2007. An updated version with test results by bank will be exhibited at the third Festival, Oct 12, 2008.