

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

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FDRP Project Title and Project No.: FDRP Tagging of NWHI Uku (Grey Snapper)
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 the NWHI bottomfishermen in a meaningful research project designed to gain knowledge of the Uku's movements that can be used to enhance fishing productivity. The project is designed to utilize both conventional spaghetti tags and sonic tags/receivers to determine movement patterns not only for the fishermen but to augment and widen the scope of an existing HMB project. The project calls for a Fishcry Technician to travel with the NWHI bottomfishermen to perform the tagging and data collection.

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 project design requires permission from the new NWHI Monument agency to conduct its work. Although a preliminary application for this permit was submitted in January, followed by a formal application in April, no permit has been issued to date. 3,000 'spaghetti' tags with applicators have been received. None of the sonic transmitters/receivers have been ordered due to the uncertainty surrounding the permit.

3. Plans for project completion:

In addition to the delay in obtaining a permit to conduct activities in the Special Preservation Areas of the Monument, the Fishery Technician position remains unfilled. The person selected for the position, Mr. Tom Swenarton, took other employment shortly before his start date of June 1. Recruitment for the position has begun again. Upon hiring the new Technician, tagging with the spaghetti tags will commence in the allowable fishing areas only, until such time as a permit is granted to enter the SPAs. Sonic tagging will also begin after receiving the permit.

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):

None.