

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

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FDRP Project Title and Project No.: NWHI and MHI Bottomfish Tagging Project,  
FDRP Project No. 655946

1. Purpose of the Project (one paragraph)

This proposal is prepared by the Pacific Islands Fisheries Group (PIFG) for the State of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Aquatic Resources, Fishery Disaster Relief Program. The PIFG seeks to work cooperatively with the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI) federal bottomfish permit holders to facilitate tagging of bottomfish species throughout the Hawaiian archipelago, especially in the NWHI. Bottomfish tagging will provide valuable growth and movement information of these species that can be used for future stock assessments and to manage this important resource. The PIFG will also facilitate community awareness, participation and support for the bottomfish tagging project to maximize tag returns.

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):

Implementation and execution of programs under this grant are progressing as scheduled. Below is a summary of tags distributed to fishermen, number of fish tagged to date, number of tagged fish recovered and other information relevant to the program.

Total Tags distributed: 2,250 (out of 4,000 tags)

Total no. of fish tagged: 819

Total no. of tagged fish recovered: 3 (all 3 are paka recoveries in the MHI)

Total no. of taggers: 10

Total no. of anglers taking fin clips: 6 (total kits received & distributed, at least 2 anglers have turned in full kits)

Tagging has dramatically slowed down in the MHI due to the implementation of the Federal and State seasonal closure that started on May 15 and will run through September 31, 2007. Once the fishery reopens, the of fish being tagged and recaptured are expected to increase. All of the tags allotted for the MHI (1,000) have been distributed. 800 have been distributed in the NWHI Hoomalu zone and 450 in the Mau zone.

3. Plans for project completion:

- 1) Develop Bottomfish Tagging information for distribution to fishermen, tackle shops
- 2) Publish articles in local fishing magazine about project and procedure for returning or calling in tag recaptures.
- 3) Engage local fishermen to catch, tag and release bottomfish species
- 4) Develop and maintain tagging database..
- 5) Monitor for tag recaptures

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

N/A

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

Project Documents and Publications

- 1) Bottomfish Tagging Flyer, Published January 15, 2007
- 2) Bottomfish Tagging Instructions, Published January 15, 2007.
- 3) Methods for releasing Deep Water Bottomfish, Published May 10, 2007, PIFG
- 4) Hawaii Bottomfish Informational Brochure, published June 20, 2007, NOAA, WPRFMC, State DLNR.
- 5) Bottomfish Tagging Project Launched, Hawaii Fishing News, March 2007

Project Meetings and Presentations

Numerous small meetings were held in the initial phases to support recruitment of fishermen to assist with tagging bottomfish under this project.