

**JIMAR, PFRP ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT
FY 2003**

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Project Proposal Title: Pelagic Fisheries Research Program: Program Management

Funding Agency: NOAA

1. Purpose of the project and indicative results.

Manage the activities of the PFRP, solicit and implement new research proposal, and promote science based management of fisheries for highly migratory fisheries in the western Pacific Ocean.

2. Progress during FY 2003. Provide a thorough discussion of accomplishments and problems.

The productivity of PFRP research projects remains high. A list of publications is attached to this report.

The PFRP remains active in international tuna research and management. The PFRP Program Manager was an active member of the United States Delegation to the Third Preparatory Conference for the Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in Western and Central Pacific in Manila, November 18 – 22, 2002. The PFRP hosted the fifteenth meeting of the Standing Committee on Tuna and Billfish in Honolulu July 18 – 27, 2003. The SCTB is the most definitive source for information on fisheries for highly migratory species in the Pacific Ocean. Participants from most Pacific Island countries, Australia, Indonesia, Philippines, Viet Nam, Taiwan, China, and Korea attended. Over 100 scientific papers and technical reports were tabled. The PFRP Program Manager is Chair of the SCTB Methods Working Group and has been coordinating evaluation of stock assessment methods and specific stock assessment results.

The 2002 PFRP PI meeting featured a special session on problems of attachment and implantation of electronic tags “Tying One On”. This session spawned a workshop to draft guidelines for tag attachment and at-sea surgery on fish.

Funding for all projects selected in the most recent, December 2001, request for proposals is either in place or will soon be in place. The pace of funding PFRP projects within NOAA appears to have improved greatly. Funding for projects from the FY2002 appropriation was received in a timely manner. However receipt of funds from FY2003 appropriation and carryover from FY2002 was delayed because of the delays in the Congress.

The PFRP has been actively promoting graduate education in fisheries. The PFRP Program Manager assisted in development the proposal for a new Coastal and Marine Resources graduate degree program. The Authority to Plan document will soon go to the Chancellor for signature. The position of curriculum coordinator for the CMR program was advertised and should be filled by the end of the Summer.

Two graduate research assistantship were awarded. Brittany Graham, a PhD candidate in the Oceanography Department, has become a productive member of the new pelagic food web project, "Trophic structure and tuna movement in the cold tongue-warm pool pelagic ecosystem of the equatorial Pacific". Richard Hall, a Masters candidate in the Geography Department, is embarking on a project to explore the potential rolls for marine protected areas in the management of highly migratory species. The graduate research assistantship program has been successful in attracting UH faculty members to the PFRP from both the Geography and Oceanography Departments.

3. Plans for the next fiscal year.

Circulate a request for proposals. Current budget projections assuming level funding for FY2004 indicate that approximately \$1,000,000 will be available for new projects.

Facilitate international collaboration in research on pelagic fisheries.