

SSC REPORT ON BOTTOM FISH
39th Meeting, 9 March 87
Scientific Statistical Committee

The Bottomfish Subcommittee met at length on two issues, which were then discussed by the full SSC. The following summarizes the results of these discussions and contains the recommendations of the SSC to the Council.

Priorities for data projects to be used in the Council's program planning were reexamined, based on the "Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council 1987 Program Narrative and Summary of Data and Research Needs for Fishery Management Plans." The SSC reaffirmed the list of projects and their importance as discussed in that document. It identified 3 projects that (1) are not completed or ongoing, (2) are feasible and of proper size and scope to be addressed with short-term Council programmatic funds, and (3) are of high priority for bottomfish management. As an internal (bottomfish) group these 3 projects were assigned priorities as follows:

- #1 Monitor landings and size frequency of catch of major species-- expand data collection to other fish dealers and possibly to other areas i.e. Guam (former priority #2 project).
- #3 Fisherman voluntary logbook program--follow-on to former priority #6 project.
- #2 Economic analysis of trends in the Hawaiian commercial bottomfish fleet--(former priority #5 project).

This list of projects was subsequently integrated into an overall list for all FMP's combined and priorities reassigned as part of the entire group. Item (priority) #3 above is least well defined and needs somewhat better description before the Council (or Council staff) can proceed with it.

The SSC reviewed "A Briefing Paper Concerning Proposed Regulations to Control Access to the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Bottomfishery, March 1987," "Council Action Document on NWHI Access Management 56th Council Meeting--

March 1987," the various reviews and summaries of public hearings and informational meetings, and presentations by Council staff and consultant on the history of the development of a limited entry proposal, its present form, and some implications of various proposed changes. The SSC's comments and recommendations deal with the "Council Action Document."

After hearing a description of the most recent research (done subsequent to and in response to the last public hearings), the SSC concludes that the data on landings and costs in the bottomfishery, upon which the limited entry plan is based, are the best available at present. No objective information has been presented to discredit the conclusions from those data about the economic conditions of the fishery. The SSC recommends proceeding on the basis of the present data.

Questions of whether there is to be a Mau zone, and if so, where its boundaries should be, and who should be permitted to fish in it, are interrelated. The SSC recognizes that creation of a Mau zone in which fishermen can earn higher points toward qualifying for the Hoomalu zone may lead to increased fishing in this already well fished area, and may therefore tend to depress stocks in the Mau zone further. However, in consideration of the logistic, cost and market factors involved, and of the considerable number of qualifying points that some operators have at present, it is not clear that the Mau zone will in fact experience a "gold rush" of fishermen seeking to qualify for the Hoomalu zone. Furthermore, the SSC recognizes that the creation of a stepwise system of acquiring experience for the conditions occurring in the NWHI fishery may be an essential element of a limited entry plan that is consistent with the MFCMA and Department of Commerce policy, and therefore approvable. These conflicting pressures are hard to weigh, especially without benefit of face-to-face discussion with the NOAA people involved in FMP review (a step recommended by the SSC

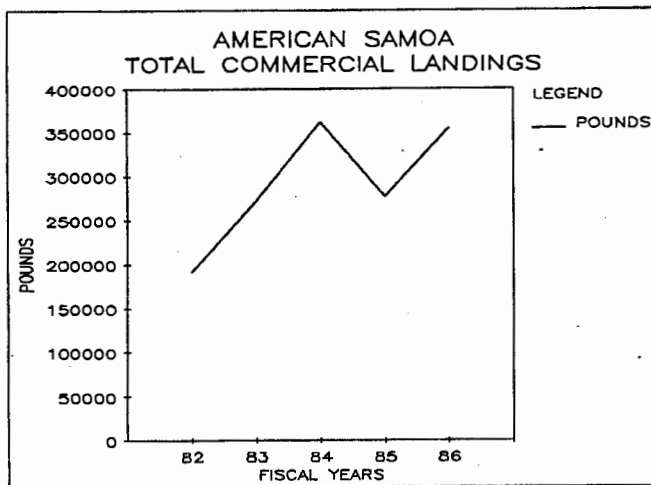
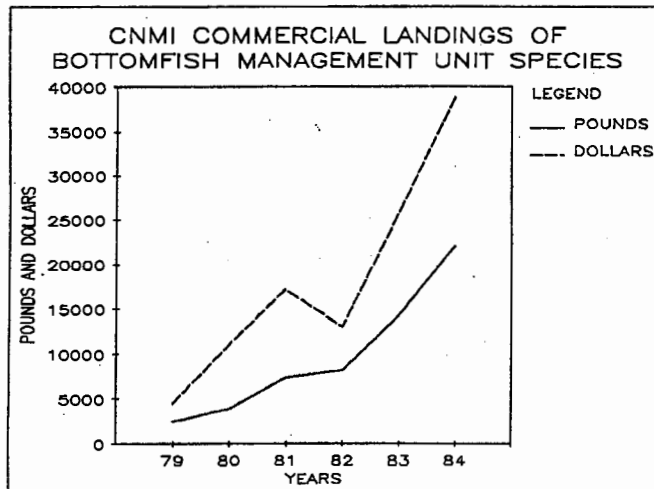
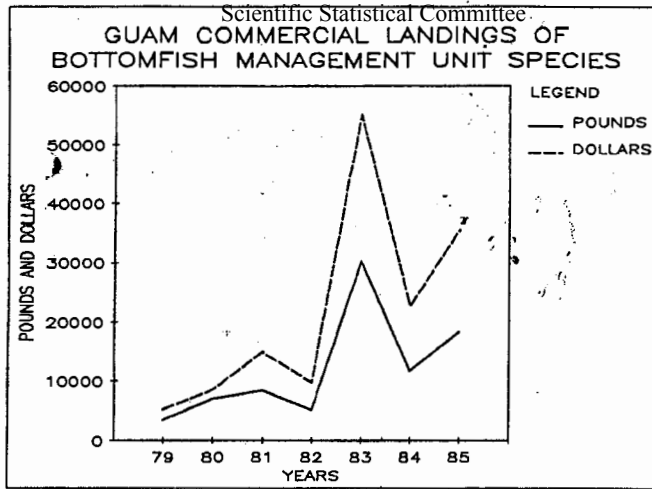
in August 1986 for this issue). This becomes a judgment call which the Council will have to make. There seems to be no objective way of predicting even semi-quantitatively the impact on the Mau zone of an unpredictable response by the fishing community.

If there is to be a Mau zone, its boundaries are important. The SSC sees no strong scientific argument for whether Kaula should be included in it or not. On the other hand, moving the western boundary of the Mau zone to a point between St. Rogatien Bank and Gardner Pinnacles would move major fishing grounds from the Hoomalu to the Mau zone and reduce the economic incentive of fishing in the Hoomalu zone significantly. The SSC feels that if such a boundary were to be set and if an individual fisherman were allowed to fish in only one of the two zones (Hoomalu or Mau), there is strong question as to whether fishing under a Hoomalu permit would be economically viable. With the boundaries properly located (approximately e.g. as in the March 1987 "Briefing Paper"), the question of whether Hoomalu fishermen may fish in the Mau zone involves issues of equity that the Council must decide. From the standpoint of fish stock management, permitting Hoomalu zone fishermen to fish there will likely increase pressure on an area vulnerable to increased fishing by fishermen wishing to qualify for the Hoomalu zone (see above).

The SSC found no technical basis for a recommendation on the following issues. There was no agreement of personal opinion, and these seemed not to be matters for which the committee had any special expertise:

1. Number of bottomfish trips required to renew the Hoomalu zone permit.
2. Number of fishermen from each zone on the Advisory Review Panel.
3. Qualifying points for crew eligibility.

Most importantly, the SSC believes that the necessary information is now available, and that little will be gained by further delay in making decisions and finalizing the limited entry proposal. It should be moved ahead.



Scientific Statistical Committee
GUAM COMMERCIAL LANDINGS

FISH PURCHASES
BY SPECIES BY YEAR

YEAR	SPECIES	RECORDS	POUNDS	VALUE	AVE \$/#
* TOTALS FOR 1979					
1979	BOTTOM FISH	77	3026.00	4539.31	1.50
1979	GROUPEr	2	243.00	364.50	1.50
1979	LEHI (SILVERJAW)	1	13.00	19.50	1.50
1979	ONAGA (RED SNAPPER)	10	153.75	252.65	1.64
** SUBTOTAL **		90	3435.75	5175.96	
* TOTALS FOR 1980					
1980	BOTTOM FISH	105	4037.00	5031.46	1.25
1980	GINDAI (FLOWER SNAP)	2	775.00	775.00	1.00
1980	GROUPEr	12	1450.00	1600.50	1.10
1980	LEHI (SILVERJAW)	3	112.00	148.00	1.32
1980	ONAGA (RED SNAPPER)	11	521.50	859.00	1.65
1980	OPAKAPAKA (PINK SNP)	2	62.00	62.00	1.00
** SUBTOTAL **		135	6957.50	8475.96	
* TOTALS FOR 1981					
1981	BOTTOM FISH	176	6506.27	11362.18	1.75
1981	GROUPEr	8	768.00	1342.75	1.75
1981	LEHI (SILVERJAW)	17	487.00	974.00	2.00
1981	ONAGA (RED SNAPPER)	30	606.16	1193.03	1.97
** SUBTOTAL **		231	8367.43	14871.96	
* TOTALS FOR 1982					
1982	BOTTOM FISH	95	3266.94	6261.90	1.92
1982	GINDAI (FLOWER SNAP)	8	37.00	74.00	2.00
1982	GROUPEr	35	977.25	1809.25	1.85
1982	LEHI (SILVERJAW)	17	481.75	963.50	2.00
1982	ONAGA (RED SNAPPER)	9	125.00	258.00	2.06
1982	OPAKAPAKA (PINK SNP)	11	176.29	352.58	2.00
** SUBTOTAL **		175	5064.23	9719.23	

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FISH PURCHASES
BY SPECIES BY YEAR

YEAR	SPECIES	RECORDS	POUNDS	VALUE	AVERAGE \$/#
* TOTALS FOR 1983					
1983	BOTTOM FISH	365	17848.70	34511.41	1.93
1983	EHU (RED SNAPPER)	7	90.23	212.29	2.35
1983	SINDAI (FLOWER SNAP)	24	1333.83	2667.14	2.00
1983	GROUPEE	35	6733.04	8869.27	1.32
1983	KALIKALI (PINK SNAP)	1	42.21	84.42	2.00
1983	LEHI (SILVERJAW)	20	1619.99	2750.11	1.70
1983	ONAGA (RED SNAPPER)	21	1478.51	3564.55	2.41
1983	OPAKAPAKA (PINK SNP)	35	987.88	2300.66	2.33
1983	UKU (GRAY SNAPPER)	4	76.81	115.21	1.50
** SUBTOTAL **		512	30211.20	55075.06	
* TOTALS FOR 1984					
1984	BOTTOM FISH	159	5681.28	11051.47	1.95
1984	EHU (RED SNAPPER)	13	146.10	336.55	2.30
1984	SINDAI (FLOWER SNAP)	25	344.10	700.09	2.03
1984	GROUPEE	50	1211.74	1919.65	1.58
1984	KALIKALI (PINK SNAP)	24	715.67	1415.90	1.98
1984	LEHI (SILVERJAW)	26	946.31	1905.23	2.01
1984	ONAGA (RED SNAPPER)	9	186.25	483.00	2.59
1984	OPAKAPAKA (PINK SNP)	26	761.75	1655.07	2.17
1984	UKU (GRAY SNAPPER)	76	1697.82	3265.06	1.92
** SUBTOTAL **		408	11691.02	22732.02	
* TOTALS FOR 1985					
1985	BOTTOM FISH	314	12590.08	24950.25	1.98
1985	EHU (RED SNAPPER)	9	311.50	660.07	2.12
1985	SINDAI (FLOWER SNAP)	14	525.00	1095.70	2.09
1985	GROUPEE	14	873.40	1064.45	1.22
1985	KALIKALI (PINK SNAP)	8	459.00	918.00	2.00
1985	LEHI (SILVERJAW)	13	606.75	1243.50	2.05
1985	ONAGA (RED SNAPPER)	18	662.00	1748.00	2.64
1985	OPAKAPAKA (PINK SNP)	13	554.25	1134.00	2.05
1985	UKU (GRAY SNAPPER)	72	1710.05	2667.15	1.56
** SUBTOTAL **		475	18292.03	35481.12	

CNMI COMMERCIAL LANDINGS

FISH PURCHASES
BY SPECIES BY YEAR

YEAR	SPECIES	RECORDS	POUNDS	VALUE	AVE \$/#
* TOTALS FOR	1979				
1979	BOTTOM FISH	40	2501.90	4459.66	1.78
** SUBTOTAL **		40	2501.90	4459.66	
* TOTALS FOR	1980				
1980	BOTTOM FISH	73	3828.10	10992.75	2.87
** SUBTOTAL **		73	3828.10	10992.75	
* TOTALS FOR	1981				
1981	BOTTOM FISH	56	4852.50	10492.30	2.16
1981	GINDAI (FLOWER SNAP)	1	38.00	114.00	3.00
1981	GROUPE	6	759.00	1407.10	1.85
1981	LEHI (SILVERJAW)	1	18.00	54.00	3.00
1981	ONAGA (RED SNAPPER)	16	1691.50	5068.95	3.00
** SUBTOTAL **		80	7359.00	17136.35	
* TOTALS FOR	1982				
1982	BOTTOM FISH	26	7256.50	11242.63	1.55
1982	GINDAI (FLOWER SNAP)	1	10.50	16.27	1.55
1982	GROUPE	20	569.00	977.35	1.72
1982	ONAGA (RED SNAPPER)	6	198.50	526.84	2.65
1982	OPAKAPAKA (PINK SNP)	2	86.00	215.00	2.50
** SUBTOTAL **		55	8120.50	12978.09	
* TOTALS FOR	1983				
1983	BOTTOM FISH	199	10398.10	18178.89	1.75
1983	GINDAI (FLOWER SNAP)	11	213.50	432.35	2.03
1983	GROUPE	59	1090.50	1713.03	1.57
1983	ONAGA (RED SNAPPER)	23	894.00	2527.64	2.83
1983	OPAKAPAKA (PINK SNP)	38	1617.90	2917.41	1.80
** SUBTOTAL **		330	14214.00	25769.32	
* TOTALS FOR	1984				
1984	BOTTOM FISH	272	16777.00	29665.84	1.77
1984	GINDAI (FLOWER SNAP)	19	638.50	1255.77	1.97
1984	GROUPE	47	2512.90	3300.30	1.31
1984	ONAGA (RED SNAPPER)	26	820.80	2075.36	2.53
1984	OPAKAPAKA (PINK SNP)	22	1311.00	2560.00	1.95
** SUBTOTAL **		386	22060.20	38857.27	

Table 1.1

AMERICAN SAMOA 1982 ANNUAL COMMERCIAL LANDINGS
FISH PURCHASES BY SPECIES

SPECIES	RECORDS	POUNDS	VALUE	AVE \$/#
MISCELLANEOUS	3	58.25	92.13	1.58
BIGEYE SCAD	34	1345.25	2353.48	1.75
JACKS	14	99.00	173.23	1.75
BLACK JACK	1	14.00	24.50	1.75
BARRACUDAS	12	159.00	278.19	1.75
SMALL BARRACUDA	8	49.00	85.73	1.75
SHARKS	3	32.00	55.90	1.75
RAYS	1	21.00	21.00	1.00
EELS	4	39.50	42.12	1.07
BOTTOM FISH	420	35709.37	62389.39	1.75
GROUPERS	16	100.25	175.41	1.75
FLAGTAIL GROUPER	2	7.00	12.25	1.75
GIANT GROUPER	1	200.00	200.00	1.00
LUNARTAIL GROUPER	24	357.75	626.05	1.75
BLUE LINED SNAPPER	49	858.30	1501.46	1.75
ONESPOT SNAPPER	2	5.00	6.26	1.25
HUMPBAC SNAPPER	34	398.00	696.45	1.75
GRAY JOBFISH	11	163.00	307.74	1.89
DEEPWATER BOTTOMFISH	11	1668.00	4953.96	2.97
YELLOW OPAKAPAKA	3	28.00	41.75	1.49
HAWAIIAN OPAKAPAKA	1	48.00	84.00	1.75
OPAKAPAKA	13	288.00	576.29	2.00
BLUE LINED GINDAI	1	9.00	15.75	1.75
GINDAI (FLOWER SNAP)	5	58.50	98.74	1.69
LEHI (SILVERJAW)	7	153.75	263.10	1.71
ONAGA (RED SNAPPER)	24	711.00	2694.78	3.79
EHU (RED SNAPPER)	23	955.00	2024.15	2.12
EMPERORS (MISC)	66	2065.39	3613.89	1.75
LONGNOSE EMPEROR	3	107.00	187.25	1.75
BLUELINE BREEM	1	15.00	26.25	1.75
SNAKE MACKEREL	1	12.00	21.00	1.75
REEF FISH	296	37076.35	61523.03	1.66
RABBITFISH	3	11.00	19.24	1.75
LINED SURGEON	78	3168.00	5543.89	1.75
YELLOW EYED SURGEON	13	98.00	171.49	1.75
DUSSUMIER'S SURGEON	4	36.50	63.87	1.75
SPOTTED SURGEONFISH	6	43.50	76.11	1.75
UNICORNFISH (MISC)	47	1056.50	1848.82	1.75
UNICORNFISH	29	482.00	843.47	1.75
SQUIRRELFISH	49	825.00	1443.68	1.75
SABER SQUIRRELFISH	1	6.50	11.37	1.75
BERNDT'S SOLDIERFISH	1	4.00	7.00	1.75
BIGEYE SQUIRRELFISH	5	35.00	61.25	1.75
PARROTFISH	69	1622.25	2838.79	1.75
GOATFISH	2	5.00	8.75	1.75

Table 2.1
 AMERICAN SAMOA 1983 ANNUAL COMMERCIAL LANDINGS
 FISH PURCHASES BY SPECIES

SPECIES	RECORDS	POUNDS	VALUE	AVE \$/#
MISCELLANEOUS	16	279.25	479.26	1.72
BIGEYE SCAD	1	70.00	210.00	3.00
JACKS	57	1059.75	1805.76	1.70
BLACK JACK	8	81.50	104.23	1.28
BLUEFIN TREVALLY	1	3.00	3.00	1.00
AMBERJACK	1	60.00	105.00	1.75
BARRACUDAS	35	312.25	533.75	1.71
MULETS	8	88.00	154.00	1.75
SHARKS	5	158.25	275.72	1.74
BOTTOM FISH	294	41772.75	73060.01	1.75
GROUPERS	66	921.00	1608.43	1.75
FLAGTAIL GROUPER	1	2.00	3.50	1.75
TOMATO GROUPER	4	90.00	136.50	1.52
BLACKTIP GROUPER	1	3.00	5.25	1.75
STRIPED GROUPER	1	12.00	28.20	2.35
GIANT GROUPER	3	188.00	193.85	1.03
LUNARTAIL GROUPER	9	107.00	187.25	1.75
SNAPPERS	2	28.00	35.00	1.25
BLUE LINED SNAPPER	63	1605.25	2630.65	1.64
BLACKTAIL SNAPPER	3	60.00	84.88	1.41
ONESPOT SNAPPER	17	184.75	293.54	1.59
TWINSPOT/RED SNAPPER	10	139.25	201.18	1.44
HUMPBACK SNAPPER	35	634.25	1109.17	1.75
BROWN JOBFISH	2	28.00	49.00	1.75
GRAY JOBFISH	125	3209.00	7882.58	2.46
YELLOW OPAKAPAKA	108	873.50	3550.06	4.06
HAWAIIAN OPAKAPAKA	6	93.50	244.92	2.62
GINDAI (FLOWER SNAP)	66	495.50	1089.80	2.20
YELLOWTAIL SNAPPER	6	6.50	7.10	1.09
LEHI (SILVERJAW)	111	2436.00	5532.64	2.27
ONAGA (RED SNAPPER)	272	7419.00	32536.44	4.39
EHU (RED SNAPPER)	161	3136.00	7803.54	2.49
STONE'S SNAPPER	18	1101.50	1833.63	1.66
KUSAKAR'S SNAPPER	1	13.75	24.06	1.75
EMPERORS (MISC)	67	1756.75	3066.17	1.75
LONGNOSE EMPEROR	1	35.00	43.75	1.25
SNAKE MACKEREL	2	22.00	38.50	1.75
REEF FISH	59	11791.00	20608.06	1.75
LINED SURGEON	40	1012.00	1770.93	1.75
YELLOW EYED SURGEON	21	234.00	409.49	1.75
CONVICT TANG	1	5.00	8.75	1.75
DUSSUMIER'S SURGEON	8	88.75	155.27	1.75
SPOTTED SURGEONFISH	1	10.00	17.50	1.75
UNICORNFISH (MISC)	11	228.50	399.82	1.75
UNICORNFISH	5	48.00	83.98	1.75

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Table 3.1

AMERICAN SAMOA 1984 ANNUAL COMMERCIAL LANDINGS
FISH PURCHASES BY SPECIES

SPECIES	RECORDS	POUNDS	VALUE	AVE \$/#
MISCELLANEOUS	7	98.75	172.81	1.75
BIGEYE SCAD	13	986.75	1519.20	1.54
JACKS	86	1412.25	2346.87	1.66
BLACK JACK	1	11.00	17.82	1.62
TREVALLY	1	10.00	17.50	1.75
BARRACUDAS	53	632.25	996.34	1.58
SHARKS	9	535.00	935.31	1.75
BOTTOM FISH	291	45187.00	72095.26	1.60
GROUPERS	79	1118.00	1938.00	1.73
BLACKTIP GROUPER	2	7.25	12.68	1.75
GIANT GROUPER	2	180.00	223.80	1.24
LUNARTAIL GROUPER	44	417.60	729.75	1.75
SNAPPERS	3	95.00	148.20	1.56
BLUE LINED SNAPPER	119	2746.00	4433.12	1.61
RUFOUS SNAPPER	2	90.00	140.40	1.56
BLACKTAIL SNAPPER	10	404.00	589.50	1.46
ONESPOT SNAPPER	21	281.50	436.17	1.55
TWINSPO/RED SNAPPER	21	432.25	754.04	1.74
HUMPBACK SNAPPER	88	1257.00	2184.44	1.74
GRAY JOBFISH	78	1125.50	1843.96	1.64
DEEPWATER BOTTOMFISH	6	121.50	273.52	2.25
YELLOW OPAKAPAKA	46	883.00	2100.61	2.38
HAWAIIAN OPAKAPAKA	52	772.00	2627.48	3.40
OPAKAPAKA	2	29.25	51.18	1.75
GINDAI (FLOWER SNAP)	86	1279.25	2162.85	1.69
YELLOWTAIL SNAPPER	1	2.50	1.25	0.50
LEHI (SILVERJAW)	57	908.50	2392.10	2.63
ONAGA (RED SNAPPER)	155	3168.50	12599.77	3.98
EHU (RED SNAPPER)	139	3174.50	7223.48	2.28
BLACK SNAPPER	4	29.25	51.18	1.75
STONE'S SNAPPER	20	616.75	1076.31	1.75
KUSAKAR'S SNAPPER	1	80.00	140.00	1.75
BIGEYE EMPEROR	1	5.00	8.75	1.75
EMPERORS (MISC)	108	2767.50	4780.68	1.73
LONGNOSE EMPEROR	3	82.50	103.13	1.25
SNAKE MACKEREL	1	6.00	10.50	1.75
REEF FISH	12	1894.00	3095.59	1.63
LINED SURGEON	5	72.75	127.31	1.75
YELLOW EYED SURGEON	4	53.00	92.74	1.75
UNICORNFISH (MISC)	2	37.00	64.75	1.75
SQUIRRELFISH	37	327.25	541.91	1.66
SABER SQUIRRELFISH	2	30.25	52.93	1.75
BIGEYE SQUIRRELFISH	1	20.00	25.00	1.25
PARROTFISH	4	76.00	133.00	1.75
GOATFISH	2	4.00	7.00	1.75