

The Abandoned Vessels Project

Field Survey Trip in Guam, Saipan, Tinian & Rota

On the tropical islands of Guam, Saipan, Tinian and Rota, diverse seagrass and coral communities, extreme weather, and active recreational and commercial marine sectors intersect with dramatic consequences. The islands contain many distinct examples of wrecked, grounded and abandoned vessels.

The NOAA Abandoned Vessel Project, funded by the US Coral Reef Task Force and the NOAA Office of Response and Restoration, recently completed a survey of derelict and abandoned vessels in the Marianas Islands. The team consisted of two Damage Assessment Center staff and two contractors.

Over the course of nine days, 73 vessels were surveyed. The vessels ranged from large landing craft and freighters to small pleasure craft and rusted out hulks. The vessels were photographed, video surveyed, accurately located and assessed for potential risk to the environment, as well as public safety and navigation.

The team was supported by a number of local partners, including the US Coast Guard, Guam EPA, Guam Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources, CNMI Coastal Resource Management Office and the Commonwealth Port Authority.

Local partners supplied invaluable knowledge about the region and individual vessels and extensive logistical support for the mission. The data collected is also being shared with

NOAA's Office of Coast Survey to assist them in generating new nautical charts for the region. Below is an overview of the data collected.

Guam - 31 total vessels

- 2 fishing vessels,
- 4 landing craft
- 15 sailboats
- 9 barges/tugs
- 1 freighter

Saipan - 33 total vessels

- 3 fishing vessels
- 1 cabin cruiser
- 27 barges
- 2 freighters

Rota - 5 total vessels

- 1 fishing vessel
- 3 barges
- 1 tugboat

Tinian - 4 total vessels

- 2 freighters
- 1 yacht
- 1 fishing vessel



Inspecting a large barge laying on its side in Apra Harbor.



Measuring a large ketch grounded by a recent typhoon.



Coral head with vessel rubble and sediment from wave scour.

Please visit the website at -

response.restoration.noaa.gov/dac/vessels/

NOAA acts as a trustee on behalf of the public to restore coastal and marine resources injured by oil spills, hazardous substance releases, and vessel groundings. To learn more or to provide information on abandoned vessels, please contact—

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Summer 2003

