

The Fisheries of Hawaii and U.S.-associated Pacific Islands

Preface

In the late 1980's and early 1990's, significant changes occurred in the fisheries of Hawaii. Expansion and diversification of pelagic fisheries and growth (including industrialization) of fisheries that, in at least some cases, had been largely recreational or artisanal led to fear of overfishing and problems in allocation among fishery sectors. Combined with establishment of limited entry programs in Hawaii fisheries (bottomfish, longline, and lobster), this led to anticipation that similar growth might occur in Guam, the Northern Marianas, and American Samoa.

In examining the status of fisheries in Hawaii and the other U.S.-associated islands in the Pacific, however, it was evident that the availability of information was limited largely to annual reports, agency administrative reports and data reports. Nowhere was there a published source of reference information dealing with fisheries in this region available to scientists and the public.

A meeting of interested parties (and potential authors) late in 1991 at the U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Honolulu Laboratory led to an agreement to develop a series of papers to address this shortcoming; participants agreed that papers summarizing these fisheries with up-to-date information otherwise available only in unpublished form would be quite useful.

The group decided to limit the scope of the volume to domestic, island-based (rather than distant-water) fisheries, thereby excluding tuna purse seine and albacore fisheries and island-based foreign fleets in the case of Guam and American Samoa. Each paper was to include information on the biology of the species involved, a synopsis of the fishery (including historical trends, gear and vessel types, data sources and collection, status of stocks, and a brief description of markets), current re-

search and research needs, issues associated with management and regulation of the fishery, and future prospects. Because much of the source material for these papers comes from unpublished sources, however, it should be noted that restrictions on the citing of unpublished sources has been eased in this issue of *Marine Fisheries Review* to facilitate introducing the reader to some unconventional information sources. Readers interested in further information on, or copies of, these difficult-to-find materials are referred to the authors of the papers.

Virtually all papers planned for this volume were completed and provide comprehensive views of the fisheries. Lacking, however, is a paper on the fisheries of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) which, although similar in geographic locality to Guam, has its own unique fisheries. For further information on CNMI, the reader is referred to Uchida (1983) for background and to Polovina et al. (1985), which summarizes the work conducted over several years in the "Resource Assessment Investigation of the Mariana Archipelago", or RAIOMA. This program was conducted by the NMFS Honolulu Laboratory. Other papers from this program describe specific fisheries: Deep bottomfish in Polovina (1985) and deep-sea shrimp in Ralston (1986). Unfortunately, the nearshore and artisanal fisheries are not described, although some information is available in Uchida (1983) and Smith (1988). For specific information on fisheries catch in CNMI, the reader is also referred to "Fisheries Statistics of the Western Pacific" (Hamm et al.¹ and preceding yearly volumes).

¹Hamm, D. C., M. Quach, and R. Antonio. 1992. Fisheries statistics of the western Pacific, volume VIII. U.S. Dep. Commer., NOAA, Natl. Mar. Fish. Serv., Honolulu Lab., Southwest Fish. Sci. Cent. Admin. Rep. H-92-14, var. pagin.

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