



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE



PACIFIC ISLANDS REGIONAL OFFICE
GRANTS PROGRAM
ANNUAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2008

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INTRODUCTION



THE PIRO GRANTS PROGRAM

The NOAA Fisheries Service Pacific Islands Regional Office (PIRO) is responsible for the conservation, development and management of marine resources in the U.S. Territorial Sea and the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) throughout the Pacific including Hawaii, American Samoa, the Territory of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The PIRO Grants Program administers a broad range of financial assistance and program partnership activities directed at supporting the core mission of NOAA Fisheries Service.

The PIRO Grants Program is a component of the Operations, Management and Information (OMI) Division of PIRO in Honolulu, Hawaii. Federal Program Officers (FPOs) ensure the timely processing of grants and cooperative agreements, from the initial solicitation through post award management. Technical assistance is provided by staff from both the PIRO and the Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center (PIFSC). FPOs work closely with the NOAA Grants Management Division (GMD), technical monitors and grant recipients throughout the award to facilitate the successful completion of project objectives.

The PIRO Grants Program supports the NOAA Fisheries Service mission through both competitive and noncompetitive grants and cooperative agreements. Grant programs funded through PIRO during fiscal year 2008 include: Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act, Saltonstall-Kennedy Act, Hawaii Seafood Program, Native Fishery Observer Program, marine turtle management projects, Western Pacific Fishery Management Council, Cooperative Institute Program, and miscellaneous other projects that meet criteria under the 2008 Broad Agency Announcement.

FY2008 HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PIRO GRANT ACTIVITIES

The PIRO Grants Program

- Partnered with 20 Agencies and Organizations to Further NOAA's Mission through Grants and Cooperative Agreements;
- Processed 36 Funding Actions; and
- Provided \$13,753,057 to Regional Constituents.



INTERJURISDICTIONAL FISHERIES ACT

INTERJURISDICTIONAL FISHERIES ACT OF 1986 (CFDA 11.407)

The Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act of 1986 assists States in managing interjurisdictional fisheries resources. Apportionment to States is based on average value and volume of raw fish landed by domestic commercial fishermen. No State that qualified for funding receives less than 1/2 of 1 percent or more than 6 percent of funds appropriated in any fiscal year based on conditions of the act. Federal funding does not exceed 75 percent of approved project costs, except where a project supports an approved interstate or Federal Fishery Management Plan, up to 90 percent Federal funding may apply. The statistical factors used for fund allocation are: (1) Three year average of value of commercial fish landed, the source is the "Fishery Statistics of the U.S."; and (2) volume of fish landed, the source is the "Fishery Statistics of the U.S." In the Western Pacific Interjurisdictional Fisheries funds allotments are provided to the State of Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The PIRO Grants Program processed four funding actions for the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act funds in FY2008. All four of these funding actions supported the second year of three-year multi-year grants. Both the Territory of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands received \$11,972 to conduct data collection and management activities for their interjurisdictional fisheries. American Samoa utilized their allotment of \$106,428 for interjurisdictional fisheries data collection and management, while the State of Hawaii used the \$23,943 allotment for the development of a web-based interjurisdictional fisheries data reporting system. All four recipients were successful in accomplishing their stated goals and objectives.

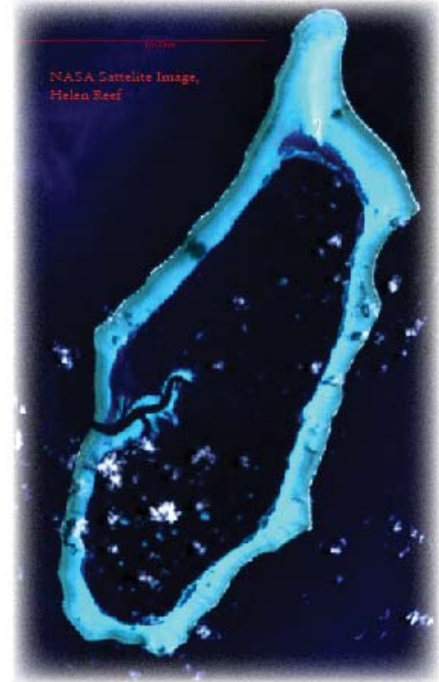


SALTONSTALL-KENNEDY

FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT AND UTILIZATION RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT GRANTS AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS PROGRAM, SALTONSTALL-KENNEDY GRANT PROGRAM (CFDA 11.427)

The objective of this grant program is to increase the Nation's wealth and quality of life through sustainable fisheries that support fishing industry jobs, safe and wholesome seafood, and recreational opportunities.

In 2008 the PIRO Grants Program provided a \$63,431 in federal funding to the Community Conservation network for fisheries socioeconomic monitoring to improve the Marine Protected Area Management of Helen Reef, Republic of Palau. This project will address the eminent needs that have been identified by the Helen Reef Resource Management Program and partners in Palau for establishing socioeconomic monitoring for the fishery resource owning community and integrating it into their existing program. The recipient has designed the project to inform and improve overall coastal and marine resource management at Helen Reef, particularly related to existing and proposed extractive fishing activities by the Hatohobei community.



Covering an area of 163 sq. km, Helen Reef is a large biologically diverse coral reef atoll located in the remote Southwest Islands of Palau. The reef is regarded as having very high abundance of fishery resources. To address the overexploitation by unauthorized foreign fishing fleets, the Helen Reef Management Act was passed in 2001 and declared Helen Reef Atoll a State Marine Managed Area. According to this Act, Helen Reef became closed to all exploitation of marine life except for subsistence fishing of the local Hatohobei residents, who are the traditional resource owners and users of the area. Biological monitoring has been conducted since the closure to record the changing conditions of the reefs. With the signs of the reef and fishery resources recovering, the current Management Board is considering new proposals to allow for small-scale commercial fishery within the Managed Conservation Area. For the past few years, the Helen Reef Resource Management has been highly interested in developing socioeconomic monitoring program that would produce baseline fisheries socio-economic data for the Hatohobei fishing community. This data will be used to expand and refine future management considerations in an adaptive management practice that the Management Board and State Government hope to follow. The Management Program is interested in developing a program that better integrates biological and socioeconomic monitoring to improve decision making.

UNALLIED INDUSTRY

UNALLIED INDUSTRY PROJECTS (11.452)

Unallied Industry projects provide grants and cooperative agreements for 1) biological, economic, sociological, public policy, and other research and administration projects to benefit U.S. fisheries industries and contribute to the economic and social welfare of the Nation; 2) to develop innovative approaches and methods for ensuring the safety, quality and integrity of U.S. fishery products; 3) to facilitate the administration, coordination and implementation of the research activities of the Cooperative Institute for Fisheries Molecular Biology (FISHTEC); and 4) to support the implementation of community-based demonstration projects in the U.S. Western Pacific that promote the development of fishery-related industries and the economic self-sufficiency of native Pacific islanders and communities.



PRGC Members at the Grantee Forum in Wailea, Maui

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

In Fiscal Year 2008, the Pacific Islands Regional Office provided \$10,000 in sponsorship to the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement for the 2008 Grantee Forum. One of the ways that the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement (CNHA) achieves its mission is by linking resources and solutions to community challenges. The 2008 Grantee Forum addressed the need for local Hawaiian capacity building through educational trainings, workshops and presentations over a two-day event. The CNHA walked participants through and simplified various grant resources such as Grantstation.com, Grants.gov, Administration for Native Americans, Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Hawaii Tourism Authority and NOAA. The Forum also introduced participants to a number of other Federal, State and foundation resources. A major component of the Forum was bringing together potential and successful grantees with funding organizations. Attendees were able to network with grantees that were previously successful in securing funding for their projects. In addition, attendees networked with funders and began dialogues that may lead to future funding.

NOAA sent five representatives to network with constituents. A plenary session was held for the NOAA grant opportunities and the Pacific Region Grants Cooperative members provided specific information about current and upcoming competitive grant opportunities.

MARINE EDUCATION AND TRAINING

In early 2007 the Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization Act was amended to include §305 (j) which provides guidance on the development of a marine education and training program. In 2008 the PIRO funded four projects under this authority. Two indigenous American Samoan students from Olosega Island of the Manu'a Islands will attend the University of Hawaii, Honolulu Community College, Marine Education and Training Center with a two-year cooperative agreement for \$31,314 each year to receive an associates degree in vessel fabrication and repair; while the University of Hawaii, Honolulu Community College, Marine Education Training Center received a \$36,264 cooperative agreement which will provide the funding needed for materials and supplies for small vessel fabrication and repair classes. The University of Hawaii Sea Grant program was provided a \$15,000 cooperative agreement for the staff time needed to conduct research that focuses on the translation of near shore fisheries-related materials from archival Hawaiian language newspapers (ca. 1830's to 1940's). Information gained from the study will be used in educating the public, resource managers, and policy makers on traditional sustainable resource use and management strategies that were shared by indigenous expertise in past centuries. The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council received \$18,000 for the expansion of high school summer courses in marine fisheries and resources to Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa.





HAWAII SEAFOOD PROGRAM

The Hawaii Seafood Program is an effort to help strengthen the economic viability of Hawaii's fishing and seafood industry through activities that promote Hawaii fisheries as high quality and safe domestic seafood produced by a responsible and well-managed fishery. In Fiscal Year 2008 PIRO funded three projects totaling \$624,969.

The Hawaii Seafood Safety and Promotion Project cooperative agreement with the Kapiolani Community College, Culinary Arts Department for \$199,969 will work to strengthen and sustain economic viability of Hawaii's fishing and seafood industry through the education of students enrolled in culinary arts programs throughout the nation, as well as educating the general public on the safe handling and nutritional value of Hawaiian grown seafood. This project will help to clarify misunderstandings about seafood safety and promote the consumption of Hawaiian grown and harvested seafood as a healthy gourmet food choice.

The Hawaii Seafood Project is a \$175,000 grant to PacMar, Inc. This project will build on PacMar's experience and training components of the Hawaii Seafood Project (FY05 and FY06) by addressing a Hawaii Seafood Program priority to provide technical assistance to promote seafood safety. The regional coverage is Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands. Outcomes of the Hawaii Seafood Project (FY08) have contributed toward significant changes in the 4th edition of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration Fish and Fishery Products Hazards and Controls Guide which is to be released later this year.



The University of North Dakota, Energy and Environmental Research Center will participate in a \$250,000 cooperative agreement to study Selenium health benefit values in tuna and swordfish and address these values as seafood safety criteria. The objective of the project is to examine the molar relationships between Mercury and Selenium in Yellowfin Tuna and Swordfish by studying the effects of controlled dietary treatments on weanling male Long Evans rats in a laboratory setting. This study is based on the notion of Selenium health benefit values which recognize the protective effects of Selenium from fish against Mercury toxicity and will attempt to quantify the true impact of Mercury exposure from seafood.

FISCAL YEAR 2008 NATIVE FISHERY OBSERVER PROGRAM

The PIRO continues to support the Alu Like Native Fishery Observer Orientation and Preparatory Training Program. In Fiscal Year 2008, PIRO issued its first multi-year grant to Alu Like based on the quality of their past performance. First year funding was issued at \$550,000. The primary purpose of this project is to recruit and train native Pacific Islanders and Native Americans for employment as Fishery Observers in the Hawaii Fishery and those Fisheries recognized throughout the Western Pacific by the National Marine Fishery Service (NMFS). Components of this project include recruitment, screening and assessment, orientation, and a preparatory training program. This provides native recruits with the practical knowledge and fundamental technical skills needed to successfully pass the NMFS formal Observer Training Class and become certified Fishery Observers.



PAPAHANAUMOKUAKEA COMPENSATION PROGRAM

In January 2008 President George W. Bush signed into law that all commercial fishing operations will be banned from the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI), due to the President's 2006 proclamation that turned the 137,000 square-nautical-mile fishing area into the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (Monument). This law impacts the bottomfish and lobster fishermen and as of January 31, 2008, there were 15 valid NWHI federal lobster permits and 8 valid bottomfish permits. As part of the Fiscal Year 2008 appropriations, the Secretary of Commerce authorized funds to compensate the fishery participants who will be displaced by the 2011 fishery closure resulting from the creation of the Monument.

In Fiscal Year 2008, PIRO established the Papahānaumokuākea Compensation Program to compensate fishers by partnering with the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission for the NWHI Bottomfish and Lobster Fishery Closure. The \$6,500,000 grant will support the congressional intent and compensate fishers affected by the closure.

UNALLIED MANAGEMENT

UNALLIED MANAGEMENT PROJECTS (II.454)

PIRO projects funded under this authority support efforts to identify and quantify marine turtle population and document their life history characteristics. Data will be incorporated into regional fishery ecosystem plans.

In cooperation with the Protected Resources Division and the International Fisheries Division of the PIRO, the Grants Program funded six marine turtle projects. These projects range in purpose from education and outreach, to marine turtle monitoring for status and trends, to international training to reduce bycatch.

Malama na Honu was provided a \$7,000 grant to support outreach material development and production for public education opportunities on turtle basking on Hawaii's beaches.

A total of \$218,523 was granted amongst the World Turtle Trust, the American Museum of Natural History, the American Samoa Government and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for sea turtle status and trends monitoring projects throughout the Central and Western Pacific. These projects support the continued efforts of these individual organizations to assess the health of green and hawksbill turtles.

In cooperation with the International Fisheries Division of PIRO, the Grants Program provided a \$75,000 grant to the World Wildlife Fund, Inc. for the implementation of a longline fisheries observer Program to reduce the interactions of sea turtle and other bycatch in Vietnam's longline tuna fisheries through improvements in fishing gear and techniques.



FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

WESTERN PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (11.441)

The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (WPFMC) prepares, monitors and revises fishery management plans and data collection programs for domestic and foreign fishing within the 200-mile U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) in the Western and Central Pacific. This is done with approval and implementation by the Secretary of Commerce who has stewardship responsibility for living marine resources in the EEZ under the Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization Act (MSRA). This program benefits commercial and recreational fishing enterprises in the EEZ. Foreign fishing enterprises may also benefit from this program if authorized to conduct fishing operations. U.S. consumers may benefit as a result of availability of seafood.

In 2005 the WPFMC was provided a 5-year Administrative Cooperative agreement. This agreement provides the PIRO the mechanism through which funds may be provided to WPFMC and managed for the various fisheries management projects assigned to WPFMC as defined in the MSRA. Eleven Partial Funding Actions were processed for this Cooperative Agreement in Fiscal Year 2008. These actions can be summarized as follows:

Project Description	Federal Share
Fiscal Year 2008 Base Administrative Allocation	\$1,998,290.00
National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)	\$116,456.00
Regulatory Streamlining Processes	\$92,907.00
WPFMC Marine turtle Activities	\$1,325,000.00
Western Pacific Fishery Information Network (WPacFIN)	\$18,000.00
Western Pacific Stock Assessment Review Process	\$100,000.00
Expansion of high school summer courses on marine fisheries and resources to Guam/CNMI/American Samoa	\$18,000.00
Scientific and Statistical Committee workshop to be held in Honolulu in November 2008.	\$96,000.00
Video Electronic Monitoring System (VEMS)	\$83,300.00
TOTAL	\$3,847,953.00

COOPERATIVE INSTITUTE PROGRAM

JOINT INSTITUTE OF MARINE AND ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH

The Pacific Islands Regional Office Grants Program supported five initiatives under the Cooperative Institute Program through the Joint Institute of Marine and Atmospheric Research (JIMAR). A total of \$1,619,288 will be used to maintain the administrative support and management staff for the Pacific Islands Regional Office programs. The five Fiscal Year 2008 initiatives include:

JIMAR Initiative	Funding
Protected Resources Initiative	\$336,992.00
National Environment Policy Act Initiative	\$126,237.00
Coral Reef Management Initiative	\$730,205.00
Sustainable Fisheries Initiative	\$180,700.00
Observer Program Initiative	\$245,154.00

TOTAL **\$1,619,288.00**



PACIFIC REGION GRANTS COOPERATIVE

PRGC

The Pacific Region Grants Cooperative (PRGC) is a group of NOAA Grants and Cooperative Agreements programs that work to pool resources and expertise to build local capacity for innovative grants from the Pacific Islands, improve grantee accountability and fiscal management, and collaborate on federal grant administration. The PRGC consists of representatives from National Marine Fisheries Service, National Ocean Service, and Ocean and Atmospheric Research. In Fiscal Year 2008, the PRGC organizations combined funds to contract and organize several grantee workshops. Those workshops included grant writing techniques, NOAA Grants Online workshops, and best management practices workshops. Classes were provided to the participants at no charge.



The PRGC contracted the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement to conduct Grant Writing Workshops throughout the main Hawaiian Islands including Kauai, Oahu, Maui, Molokai, Lanai, and Hawaii. This reached 51 constituents in the first four workshops, and six additional workshops were held to reach 84 additional potential applicants. Each workshop provided information on how to write a competitive grant application as well as provided specific information on NOAA funding opportunities.

Participants were given a workbook to take them through the step by step preparation of future grant applications.

In May 2008, the PRGC hosted Ms. Lillian Barnes of the NOAA Grants Online Program Management Office, Grants Management Division, to provide Grants Online training to Pacific Region constituents. Grants Online is the primary web-based database used by NOAA and NOAA financial assistance recipients to administer financial assistance awards. Ms. Barnes provided training to over 30 participants in Hawaii and American Samoa. She also gave advanced training to the local Federal Program Officers and staffing Honolulu. Participants were able to walk through step by step procedures in navigating the database and submitting progress and financial reports. Each person received a user manual, a quick reference guide, and a more solid understanding of this mandatory grant administration system.

In June 2008, the PRGC contracted Mr. John Edmiston author of *Internal Controls for Recipients of Federal Grants* to facilitate a workshop on the same topic in Honolulu. This two day event was provided to 24 NOAA financial assistance recipients and two Federal Program Officers. The workshop addressed many important federal financial assistance administration issues such as personnel, property, procurement, travel, and subgrants.

Participants were supplied with a workbook to use in preparing their organizations' internal controls and associated documents.

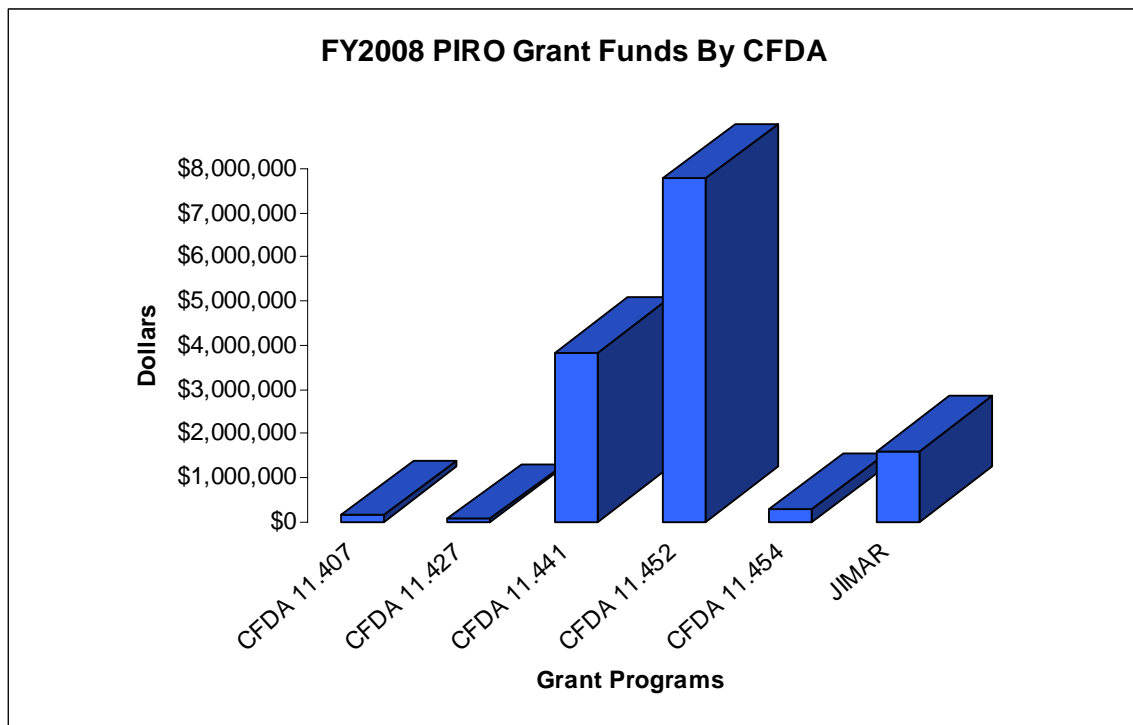
In fiscal year 2009, the PRGC is planning more capacity building workshops and training for our constituents. These may include a NOAA specific grant writing training provided by the PRGC as well as a contracted training course on federal financial assistance cost principles. The PRGC will also launch a one-stop Pacific Region Grants Website.



Fiscal Year 2008 PRGC Activities	PRGC Cost
Grants Online/GMD Workshop: Am Samoa & Honolulu	\$13,352.00
Internal Controls Workshop: Honolulu	\$15,000.00
Grant Writing Workshops: All Main Hawaiian Isles	\$20,000.00
Council of Native Hawaiian Advancement Grantee Forum Sponsorship	\$10,000.00
Grant Writing Workshops: Guam, CNMI, Am Samoa	\$13,519.86
Grant Writing Training Curriculum Development	\$10,000.00
NOAA Folders and Supplies	\$628.14
Total	<u>\$82,500.00</u>

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND GOALS

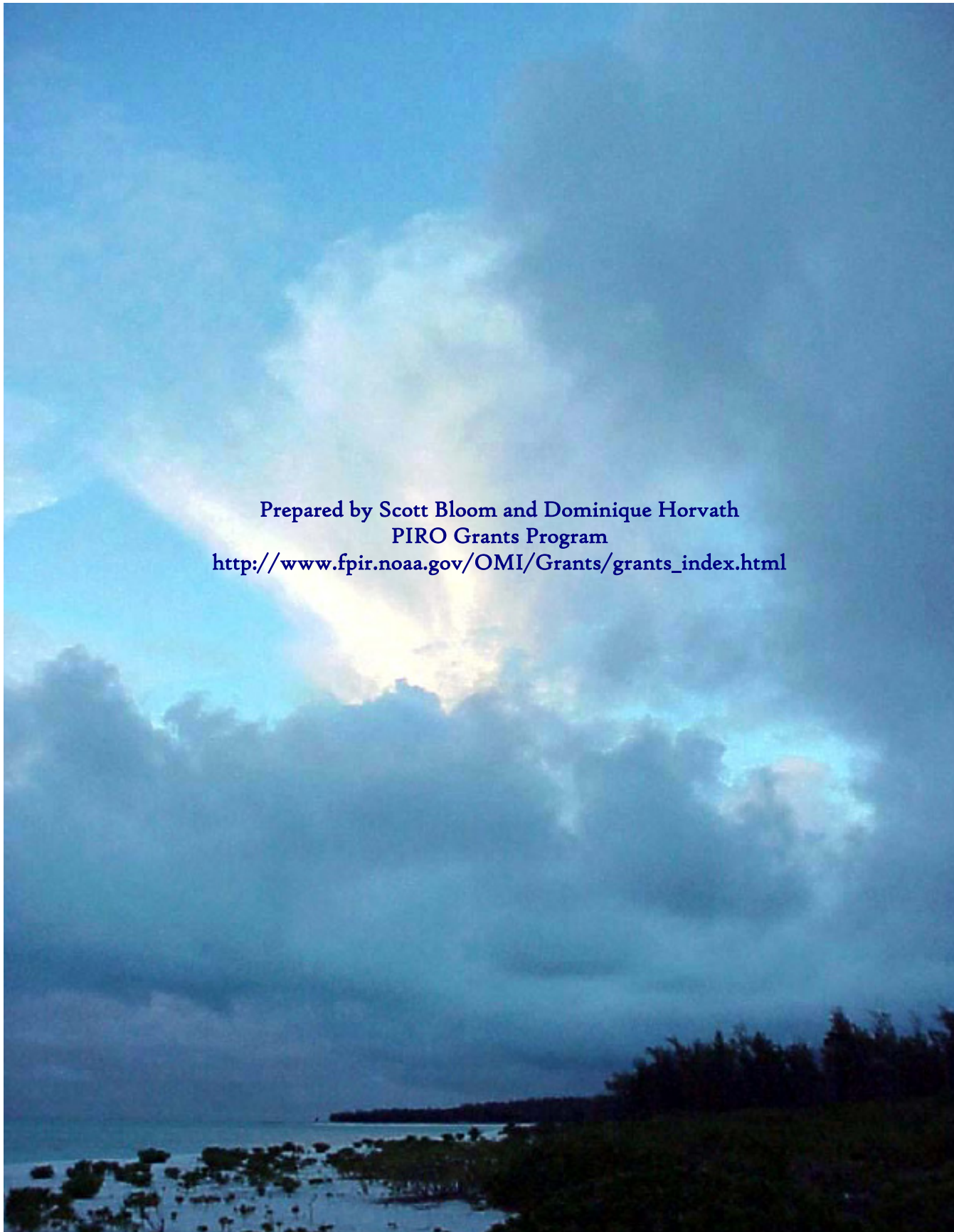
In FY 2008, PIRO Grants Program processed 36 actions totaling \$13,753,057. This included 31 Grants and Cooperative Agreements and 5 Joint Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Research Initiatives. Additional funds were utilized by the PIRO Grants Program for capacity building workshops with the Pacific Region Grants Cooperative.



Recipients included 20 agencies and organizations from Hawaii, the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, American Samoa and the Continental United States.

Fiscal Year 2009 efforts will focus on continued capacity building, working with communities to develop innovative projects, implementation of a collaborative Marine Education and Training Program, and furthering the NOAA Fisheries mission to provide stewardship of living marine resources through science-based conservation and management.

Financial Assistance Recipient	Purpose (CFDA 11.407)	State/Territory	Funding
Government of Guam	Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act	Guam	\$11,972.00
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands	Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act	CNMI	\$11,972.00
American Samoa Government	Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act	American Samoa	\$106,428.00
State of Hawaii	Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act	Hawaii	\$23,943.00
Financial Assistance Recipient	Purpose (CFDA 11.427)	State/Territory	Funding
Community Conservation Network	Fisheries Socioeconomics at Helen Reef	Republic of Palau	\$63,431.00
Financial Assistance Recipient	Purpose (CFDA 11.452)	State/Territory	Funding
Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement	2008 Grantee Forum, Maui	Hawaii	\$10,000.00
Olosega Village Council of Chiefs	Marine Education and Training Scholarships	American Samoa	\$31,314.00
University of Hawaii, Honolulu Community College, Marine Education Training Center	Small Vessel Fabrication Courses	Hawaii	\$36,264.00
University of Hawaii, Sea Grant	Translation of Hawaiian language newspaper articles	Hawaii	\$15,000.00
University of Hawaii, Kapiolani Community College, Culinary Arts Department	Hawaii Seafood Safety and Promotion	Hawaii	\$199,969.00
PacMar, Inc.	Hawaii Seafood Project (FY08)	Hawaii	\$175,000.00
University of North Dakota, Energy and Environmental Research Center	Selenium Health Benefit Values Research	North Dakota	\$250,000.00
Alu Like	Native Fishery Observer Training Program	Hawaii	\$550,000.00
Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission	Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Fishery Compensation Program	Hawaii	\$6,500,000.00
Financial Assistance Recipient	Purpose (CFDA 11.454)	State/Territory	Funding
Malama na Honu	Marine Turtle Education and Outreach on Hawaii's Beaches	Hawaii	\$7,000.00
World Turtle Trust	Hawaii Hawksbill Monitoring	Hawaii	\$50,000.00
American Museum of Natural History	Marine Turtle Monitoring at Palmyra Atoll	Palmyra Atoll	\$62,987.00
American Samoa Government	Marine Turtle Monitoring at Swains Island	American Samoa	\$34,987.00
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands	Marine Turtle Monitoring in the CNMI	CNMI	\$70,549.00
World Wildlife Fund	Longline Fishery Observer Program	Vietnam	\$75,000.00
Financial Assistance Recipient	Purpose (CFDA 11.441)	State/Territory	Funding
Western Pacific Fishery Management Council	Eleven Partial Funding Actions	Central and Western Pacific	\$3,847,953.00
Financial Assistance Recipient	Purpose (JIMAR)	State/Territory	Funding
Joint Institute of Marine and Atmospheric Research	Five Cooperative Institute Funding Initiatives	Hawaii	\$1,619,288.00



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PIRO Grants Program
http://www.fpir.noaa.gov/OMI/Grants/grants_index.html