



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
 Division of Fish & Wildlife
 Department of Lands and Natural Resources
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SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY

FOURTH HEAD OF FISHERIES MEETING

COUNTRY STATEMENT

of the

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Noumea, New Caledonia
 August 28-September 5, 2004

SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY ACTION FILE
29 SEP. 2004
ACTION OFFICER: <i>H. Leconte</i>

The Division of Fish & Wildlife.

The Division of Fish & Wildlife is one of several agencies under the Department of Lands and Natural Resources of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands government. The Division was created in 1981 by Public Law Number 2-51 entitled the "Fish, Game and Endangered Species Act". The Division endeavors to conserve fish, game and wildlife, and to protect endangered and threatened species. Through research, monitoring, regulation, enforcement, planning and management, the Division seeks to ensure the long-term survival and sustainability of the CNMI's natural resources for present and future generations. The Division website is accessible by referring to: www.dfw.gov.mp

The Fisheries Section is composed of a

Fisheries Research Program and a **Fisheries Data Program**. Overall, the Section is tasked with the preservation of endangered, threatened, and scarce species, the conservation and restoration of marine habitat, and facilitating sustainable fisheries for commercial, recreational and subsistence purposes. Funded primarily by grants from the **U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service** as provided by the Sports Fish Restoration Act, activities include monitoring fish and benthos in marine protected areas, developing a fisheries checklist and **Fish "Fact Sheets"**, a **Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) program**, and research on the life history characteristics of certain **Local and Food Fish** species. The Section also provides quality assurance and control of various data streams, offers technical assistance as needed, and is evaluating the influence of pre-position ships on coral reefs.

The Section supports an Aquatic Education Program in the Education Section to inform the public, assist teachers and educate children about sustainable fisheries. Brochures in .pdf format (slow loading @ 56k modem) such as **Friendly Snorkeling** and **Friendly Diving** practices, **Marine Protected Areas** of Saipan, **Turtle Watching** and Tide Charts can be obtained through the website.

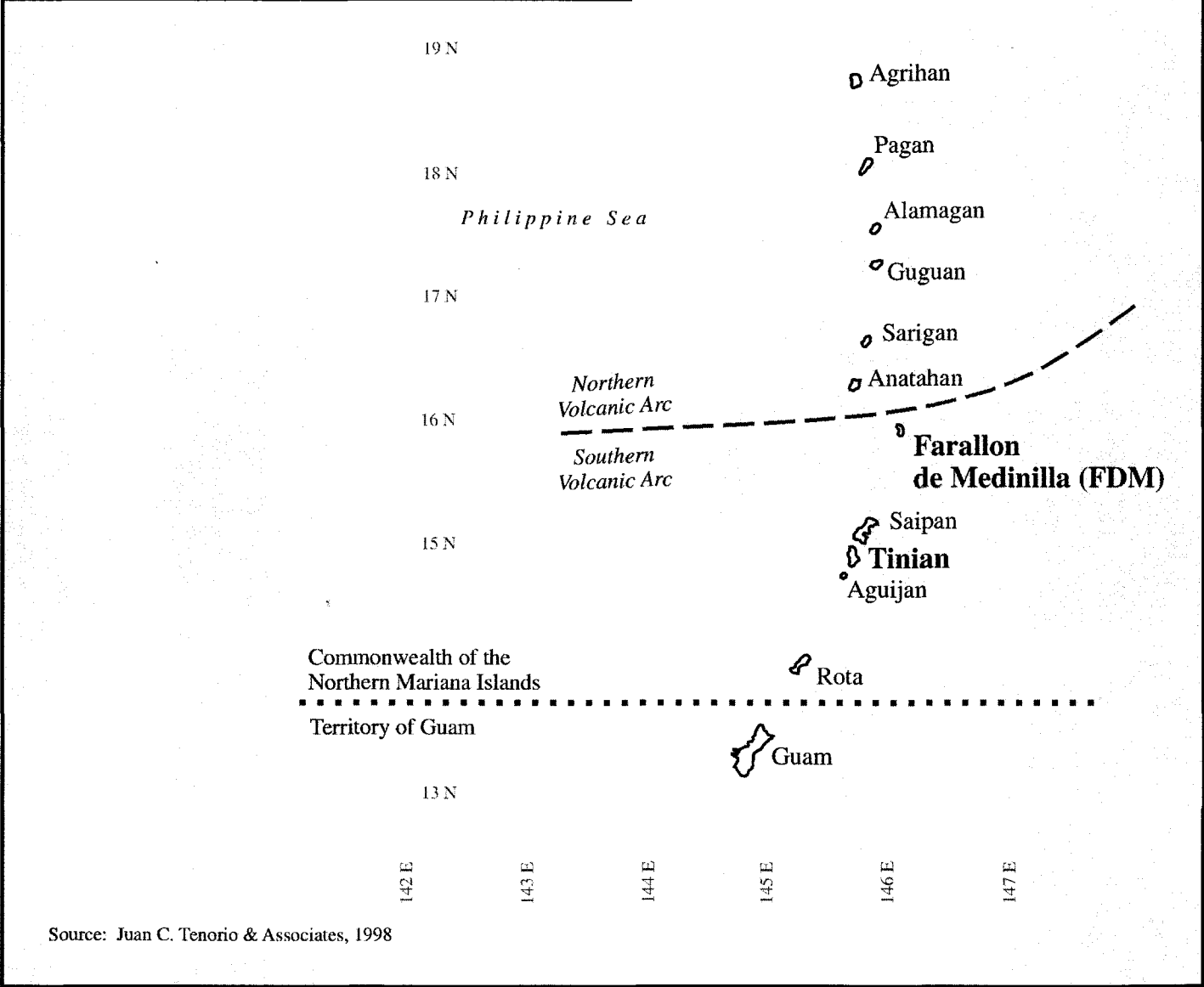
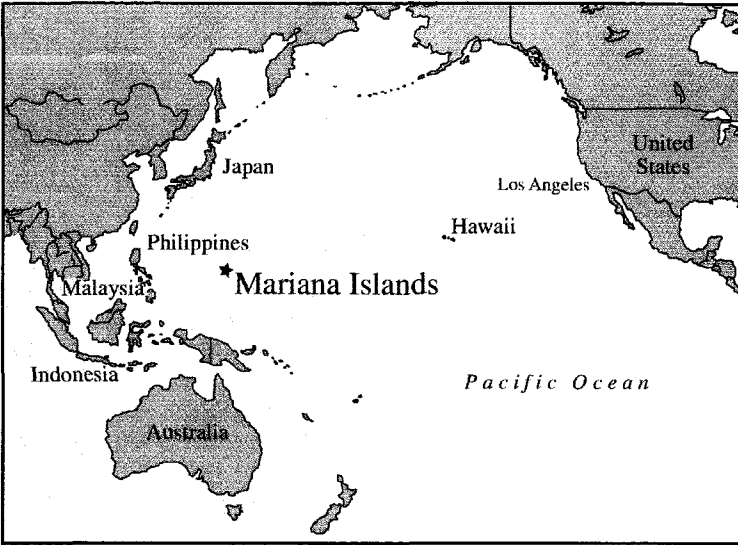
As an active member of the **Western Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Council** (WESPac), the Division and its Fisheries Section professional staff serve on Council Plan Teams that work to manage fisheries in a sustainable manner at local and regional scales. Through the **Western Pacific Fishery Information Network** or WPacFIN, the Fisheries Data Program receives funding and technical support for three databases incorporating boat-based offshore creel surveys, imported fish and commercial purchases of fish. WPacFIN offers a general introduction to CNMI fisheries including photographs of DFW's 1999 Fishing Derby. One can review estimated landings data, as well as data processing and collection methods used to contribute to the **Fishery Information Network**. Details about the CNMI's Bottomfish Fishery and Pelagic Fishery may also be reviewed online

Geography.

The Marianas archipelago is made up of 15 volcanic islands located in the western Pacific Ocean approximately 3,226 miles (mi) (8,355 kilometers (km)) west of Hawaii; 1,272 mi (3,294 km) south of Japan; 1,438 mi (3,724 km) east of Manila, Philippines; and 2,951 mi (7643 km) north of Sydney, Australia.

The Marianas archipelago spans nearly 500 mi (800 km) from Guam, which is the most southern island in the Marianas archipelago, to Farallon de Pajaros in the north. Guam, a US unincorporated Territory, is politically distinct from the CNMI; therefore the southernmost island in the CNMI chain is Rota. CNMI islands extend roughly between latitude 14°N and 21°N and longitude 145°E to 146° E. The total land area of CNMI is approximately 118,610 acres (ac.) (48,000 hectares (ha.)) with Saipan, Tinian and Rota representing the bulk of the land mass and population of CNMI (DOA, 1994). Other inhabited CNMI islands in prior years include Pagan, Alamagan and Agrihan. Presently, Agrihan is the only populated island north with occasional visitors to Pagan for mining and scientific expeditions.

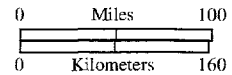
The northern CNMI islands (north of FDM) are geologically younger and three islands (Asuncion, Farallon de Pajaros, Anatahan, and Pagan) are volcanically active. The southern group of islands (including FDM and Tinian) is composed of elevated coral limestone and older volcanic sequences.



Source: Juan C. Tenorio & Associates, 1998

Location Map

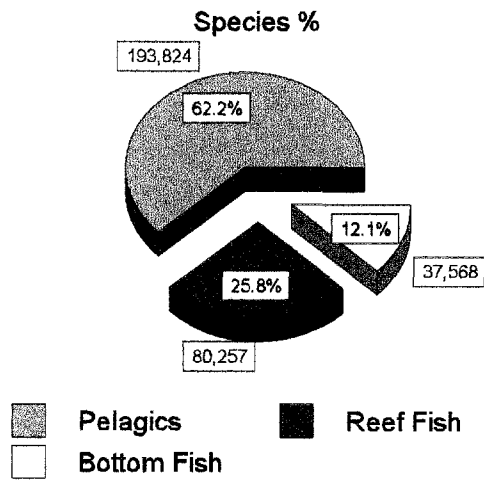
FDM & Tinian MLA INRMP



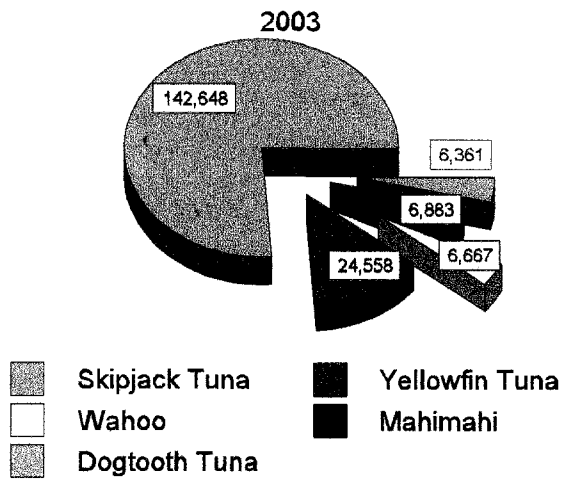
Figure

1

Commercial Purchase 2003

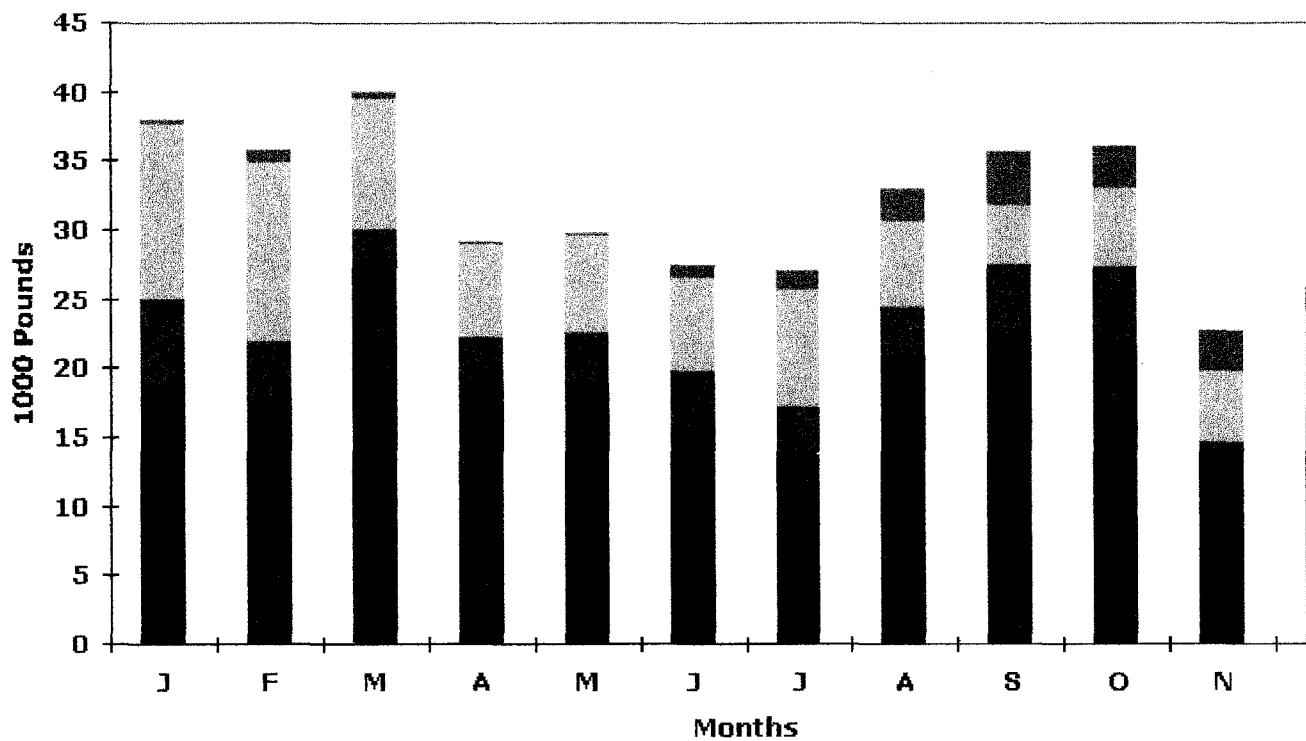


Pelagics Landings



2003 Monthly Estimated Commercial Landings of

■ Pelagic Fish ■ Bottomfish ■ Reeffish ■ Other Fish



CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife

Commercial Purchase Data System

Calendar Year Species Yearly (or Fy) Summary Report

Period From:01/01/2003 To: 12/31/2003

Species Group: All Species (ordered By Species Category).

Report Date:08/17/2004

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Species Name	Pieces	Pounds	Value	Price/Lb
Jan03-Dec03				
Bottom Fish				
Amberjack	10.00	297.25	781.90	2.63
Blackjack	5.00	147.00	366.50	2.49
Blueline Snapper	10.00	75.28	178.70	2.37
Bottom Fish	25.00	6,002.47	16,177.51	2.70
Brassy Trevally	50.00	614.60	1,521.88	2.48
Ehu (red Snapper)	39.00	583.11	1,534.22	2.63
Emperor (mafute/misc.)	261.00	6,530.26	18,257.46	2.80
Giant Trevally	0.00	21.00	52.50	2.50
Gindai (flower Snap)	215.00	2,112.50	6,383.67	3.02
Grouper (misc.)	35.00	4,719.13	12,164.23	2.58
Jacks (misc.)	57.00	3,155.71	7,226.68	2.29
Jobfish (uku)	31.00	521.90	1,260.90	2.42
Kalikali (yellowtail)	312.00	2,819.25	7,955.93	2.82
Onaga (red Snapper)	117.00	6,533.14	22,722.18	3.48
Opakapaka (pink Snp)	30.00	1,863.20	6,076.91	3.26
Silvermouth (deep Lehi)	56.00	1,572.66	4,560.68	2.90
*** BOTTOM FISH Sub-Total	1,253.00	37,568.46	107,221.85	2.85
Reef Fish				
Goatfish (misc.)	0.00	207.26	613.42	2.96
Orangespine Unicornfish	0.00	246.00	606.75	2.47
Parrotfish (misc.)	492.00	1,609.35	4,783.04	2.97
Rabbitfish (hitting)	16.00	6,052.78	20,008.80	3.31
Reef Fish	0.00	71,514.81	182,477.85	2.55
Rudderfish (guilli)	7.00	116.80	304.50	2.61
Squirrelfish	0.00	28.50	71.25	2.50
Surgeonfish (misc.)	0.00	125.60	280.48	2.23
Unicornfish (misc.)	6.00	356.51	869.68	2.44
*** REEF FISH Sub-Total ***	521.00	80,257.61	210,015.77	2.62
Pelagic Fish				
Blue Marlin	4.00	998.95	1,662.05	1.66
Dogtooth Tuna	158.00	6,361.45	10,070.49	1.58
Mahimahi	155.00	6,883.12	15,779.85	2.29
Rainbow Runner	76.00	3,837.81	7,426.52	1.94
Saba (kawakawa)	9.00	1,142.00	2,048.57	1.79
Sailfish	1.00	109.70	170.80	1.56
Sickle Pomfret (w/woman)	36.00	617.90	1,432.50	2.32
Skipjack Tuna	2,213.00	142,648.19	276,921.00	1.94
Wahoo	103.00	6,667.17	13,732.52	2.06
Yellowfin Tuna	482.00	24,558.47	52,093.50	2.12
*** PELAGIC FISH Sub-Total	3,237.00	193,824.76	381,337.80	1.97
Miscellaneous				
Bigeye Scad	390.00	12,178.46	29,019.96	2.38

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Miscellaneous	0.00	30.00	60.00	2.00
Mullet	0.00	6.48	16.20	2.50
*** MISCELLANEOUS	390.00	12,214.94	29,096.16	2.38
Invertebrates				
Octopus	0.00	1,333.43	2,949.18	2.21
Spiny Lobster	3.00	833.50	5,329.75	6.39
Squid	0.00	3.00	6.00	2.00
*** INVERTEBRATES Sub-Total	3.00	2,169.93	8,284.93	3.82
*** Jan03-Dec03 Sub-Total ***	5,404.00	326,035.70	735,956.51	2.26
*** Jan03-Dec03 Sub-Total ***	5,404.00	326,035.70	735,956.51	2.26
Report Total:	5,404.00	326,035.70	735,956.51	2.26