

SIXTH SOUTH PACIFIC ALBACORE RESEARCH WORKSHOP.

**5 - 7 MARCH, 1996.
RAROTONGA, COOK ISLANDS.**

**ALBACORE LANDINGS IN AMERICAN SAMOA
1988 - 1995.**

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This report describes albacore landings in American Samoa, the domestic landings from 1990 to 1995 and the canneries landings from 1988 to 1995. The domestic landings was delivered mainly by the local longliners whereas several distant-water fisheries and transshipments made deliveries to the canneries.

1. Domestic landings.

The local fleet utilised the Hawaiian style horizontal monofilament longline gear exclusively, which are deployed at depths greater than 200 meters. Studies done by NOAA (NOAA unpublished data, 1993) showed stable water temperatures around the islands and the temperature profile(Fig. 1.) for the water column north of Tutuila island is indicative of this observation.

Estimated annual landings of albacore averaged 9,780lbs (Table 1.). Landings increased dramatically in 1995. This sudden increase in landings for 1995(Fig. 2.) was due mainly to gear innovation, more dedicated participation by the local fishers and better prices available at the canneries. Albacore landings contirbuted an average 1% to the total pelagic landings from 1990 to 1994 and increased to 15% in 1995,(Fig. 3.).

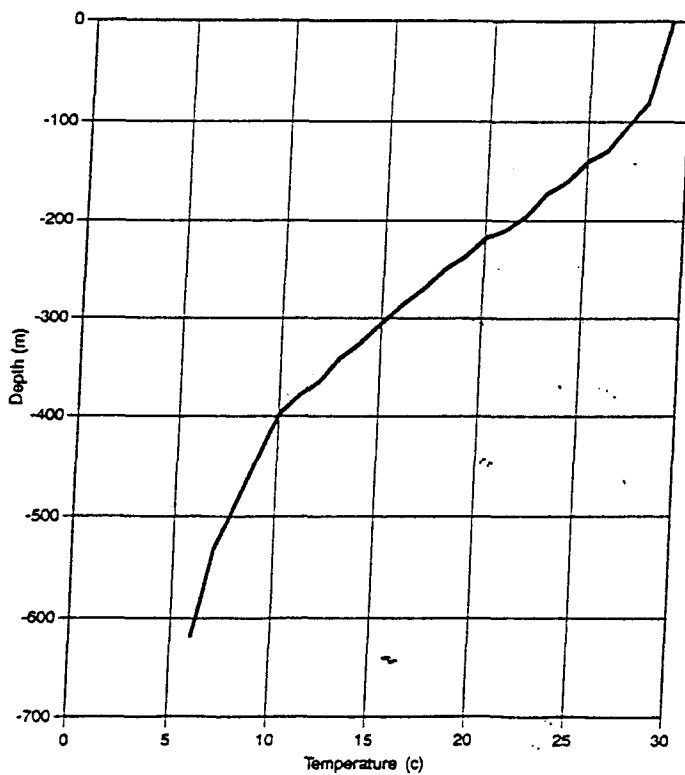


Figure 1. Temperature-depth profile for 13°53' S-170°28'W (37 km north of Tutuila Island) From 16 November, 1993 (NOAA unpublished data).

Table 1. Domestic albacore landings in American Samoa, 1990-1995.

Year	Estimated landings(lbs)
1990	250
1991	1672
1992	320
1993	236
1994	1802
1995	54640
Average	9820

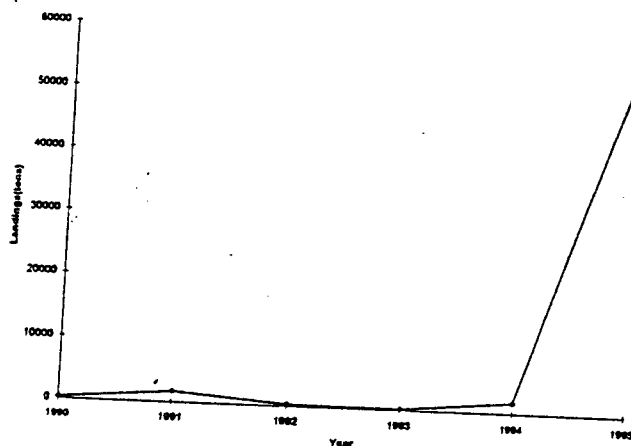


Figure 2. Domestic albacore landings in American Samoa, 1990-1995.

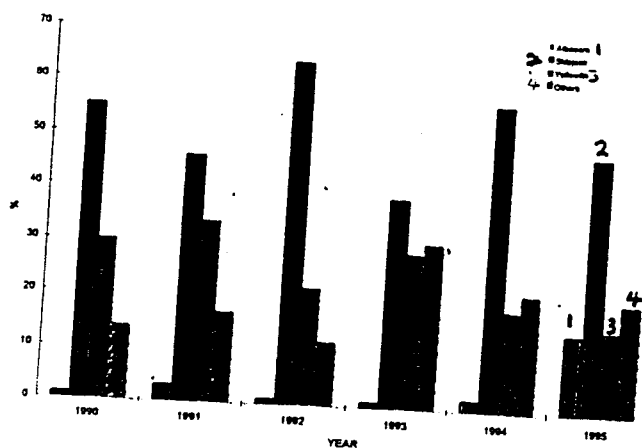


Figure 3. Species composition (%) of the domestic pelagic fish landings in American Samoa, 1990-1995.

2. Landings at the canneries.

Annual landings of albacore averaged 30,639 tons (Table 2.) which was delivered by longliners, jig/trollers, and transshipment vessels. Generally, the landings at the canneries showed an increasing trend that is interrupted by decreases in 1988 and 1992, (Fig. 4).

Table 2. Albacore landings at the canneries in American Samoa, 1988-1995.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Landings(tons)</u>
1988	28200
1989	21400
1990	25700
1991	28500
1992	36900
1993	28442
1994	36398
1995	39571
<u>Average</u>	<u>30639</u>

Average monthly landings since 1988 was cyclical (Fig. 5). Highest landings for all types of deliveries occurred in April and September and the lowest being in January-December and June-July periods.

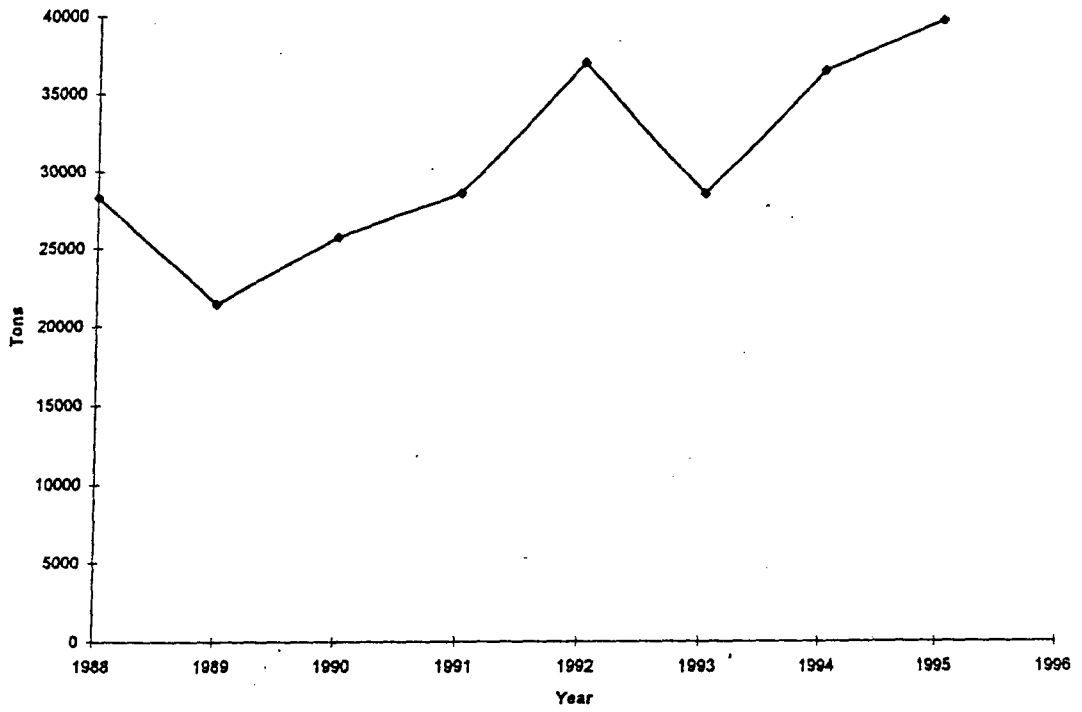


Figure 4. Annual albacore landings at the canneries, American Samoa, 1988-1995.

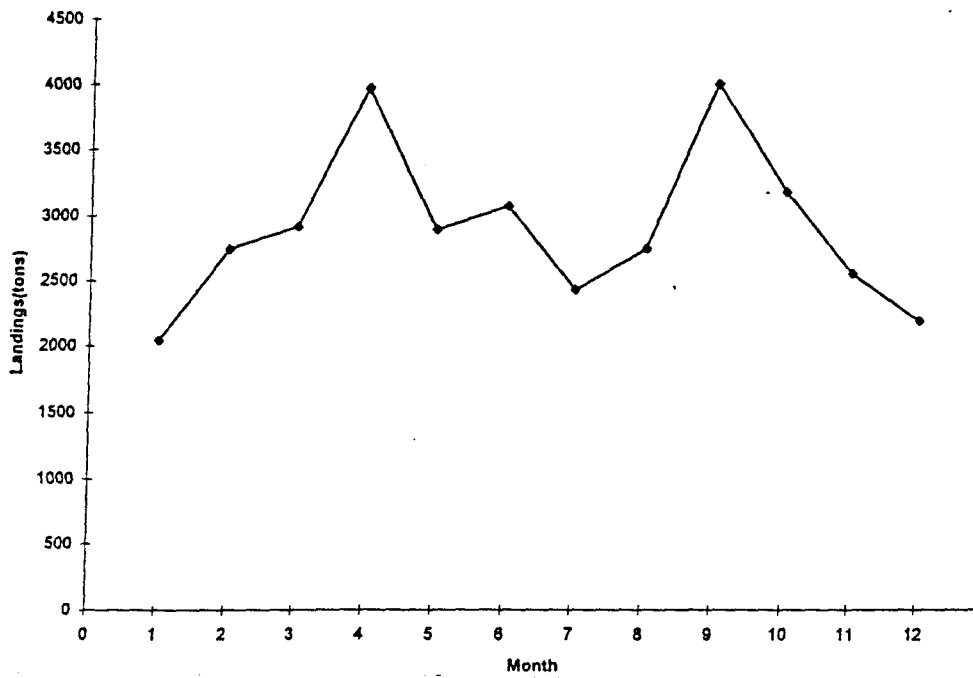
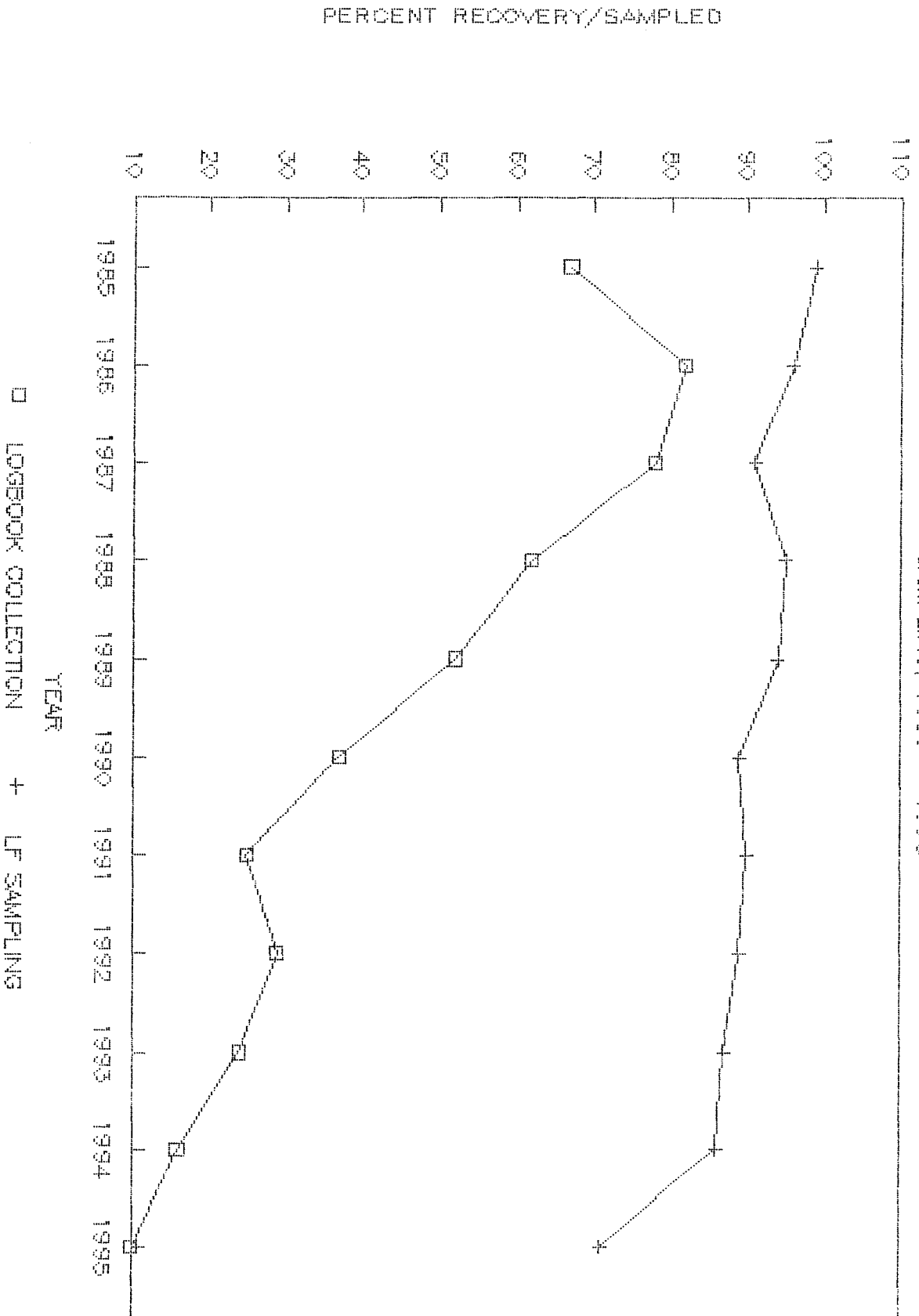


Figure 5. Average monthly landings at the canneries, American Samoa, 1988-1995.

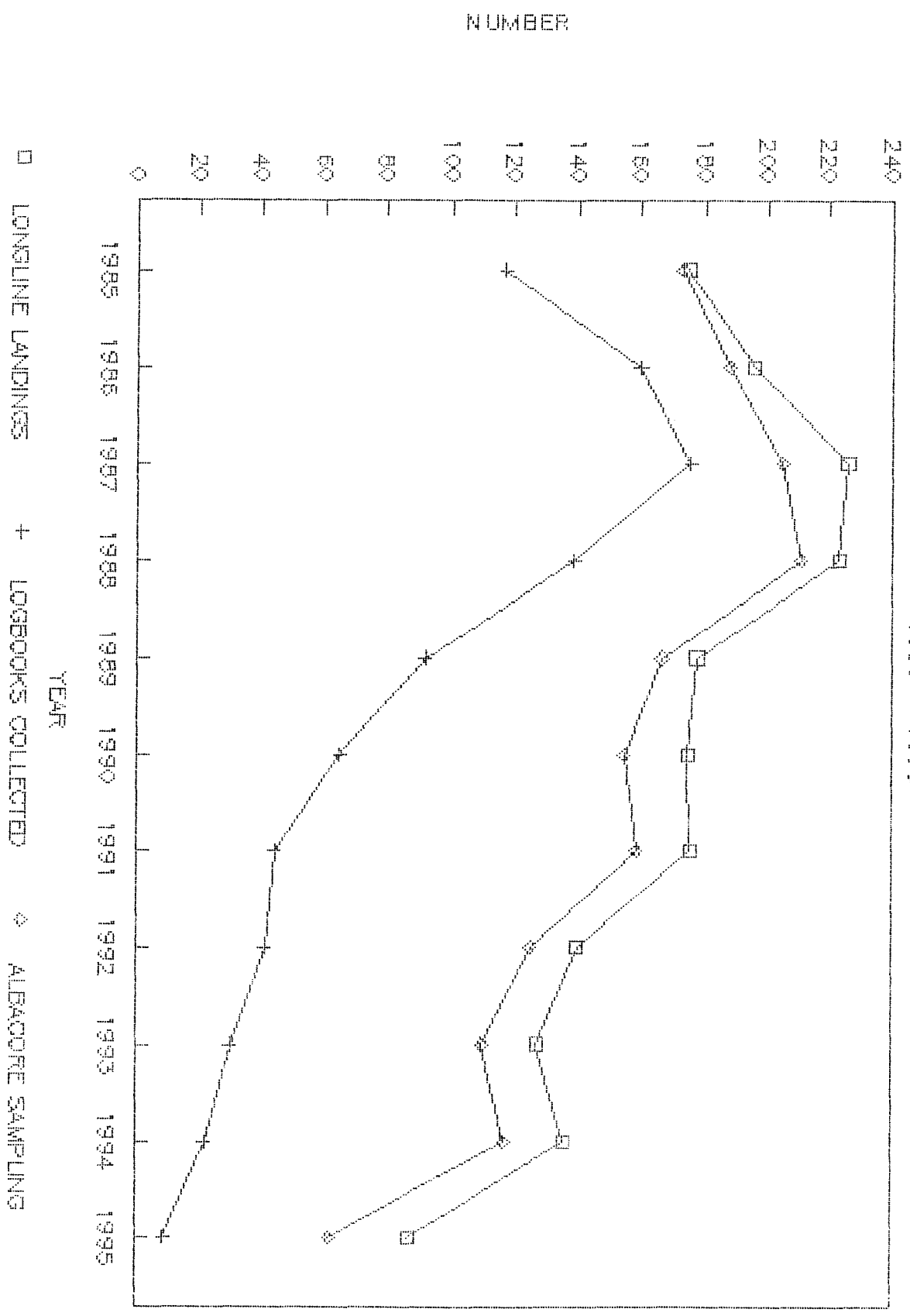
LOGBOOK COLLECTION AND LENGTH FREQUENCY

SAMPLING, 1985 - 1995



ALBACORE DATA COLLECTION AND SAMPLING

1985 - 1995



ALBACORE, LONGLINE AND JIGBOAT LANDINGS

1985 - 1995

