

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Division of Aquatic Resources
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

February 25, 2011

Board of Land
and Natural Resources
Honolulu, Hawaii

Request for Approval to Add Federal Funding (\$385,291) and Extend through FY12 the
Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR)/University of Hawaii (UH) Contract
No. 55137 for the Project Titled Evaluating the Effectiveness of Restricted Fishing Areas for
Improving the Bottomfish Fishery

Submitted herewith for your consideration is a request to amend and extend Contract No. 55137 between DLNR and the UH. Supplemental Contract No. 5 will provide additional Federal funding and allow continuation of the on-going fisheries project titled "Evaluating the Effectiveness of Restricted Fishing Areas for Improving the Bottomfish Fishery." The bottomfish project is under the direction of Dr. Jeff Drazen of the UH's Department of Oceanography. Supplemental Contract No. 5 extends the project from July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012 and provides \$385,291 in Federal funds from a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Sport Fish Restoration grant. The UH will provide the required match (\$136,130). No State General Funds are being used for the Contract.

The goal of the bottomfish project is to evaluate the effectiveness of the Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) bottomfish management plan by determining how restricted fishing areas (RFAs) affect bottomfish populations inside and outside their boundaries. A non-lethal video assessment tool, the BOTCAM stereo-video baited camera system, is used to collect baseline data for determining 1) if bottomfish populations on habitats inside the bottomfish restricted fishing areas (BRFAs) improve (i.e. increase in numbers and average size of fish) after the closures take effect, and if so 2) if bottomfish populations on adjacent habitats outside the BRFAs also improve (as a result of spillover), or 3) if bottomfish populations on adjacent habitats outside the BRFAs diminish (decrease in numbers and average size of fish) as a result of displaced fishing effort. Data collected from these surveys and previous surveys is then processed and analyzed for use in helping the DLNR evaluate the effectiveness of the State's closed area management plan for this fishery.

In FY12 the following will be performed:

1. Continue assessments and monitoring of bottomfish populations inside and outside the State's BRFAs, using the BOTCAM baited drop camera systems.

2. Continue to analyze the video completing analysis of the FY10 and FY11 collected data. This includes species identification, counts, and length data to assess relative abundance and size frequencies of harvested bottomfish species.
3. Continue analysis of data for refinement of bottomfish essential fish habitat definitions in collaboration with the Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR), UH's Hawaii Undersea Research Laboratory and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Pacific Islands Regional Office (NOAA-PIRO).
4. Continue analysis of the data to evaluate statistical power and to re-evaluate the sampling design for the BRFA monitoring.
5. Present the DLNR/DAR with a complete and detailed summary of findings.

Supplemental Contract No. 5 to Contract No. 55137 is currently being reviewed for approval by the UH and thereafter will be submitted to the State's Department of the Attorney General for final approval as to form.

RECOMMENDATION:

“That the Board authorize the Chairperson to negotiate and, subject to necessary approvals, amend/extend Contract No. 55137 with the University of Hawaii.”

Respectfully submitted,



FRANCIS G. OISHI
Program Manager

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:



WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
Interim Chairperson