

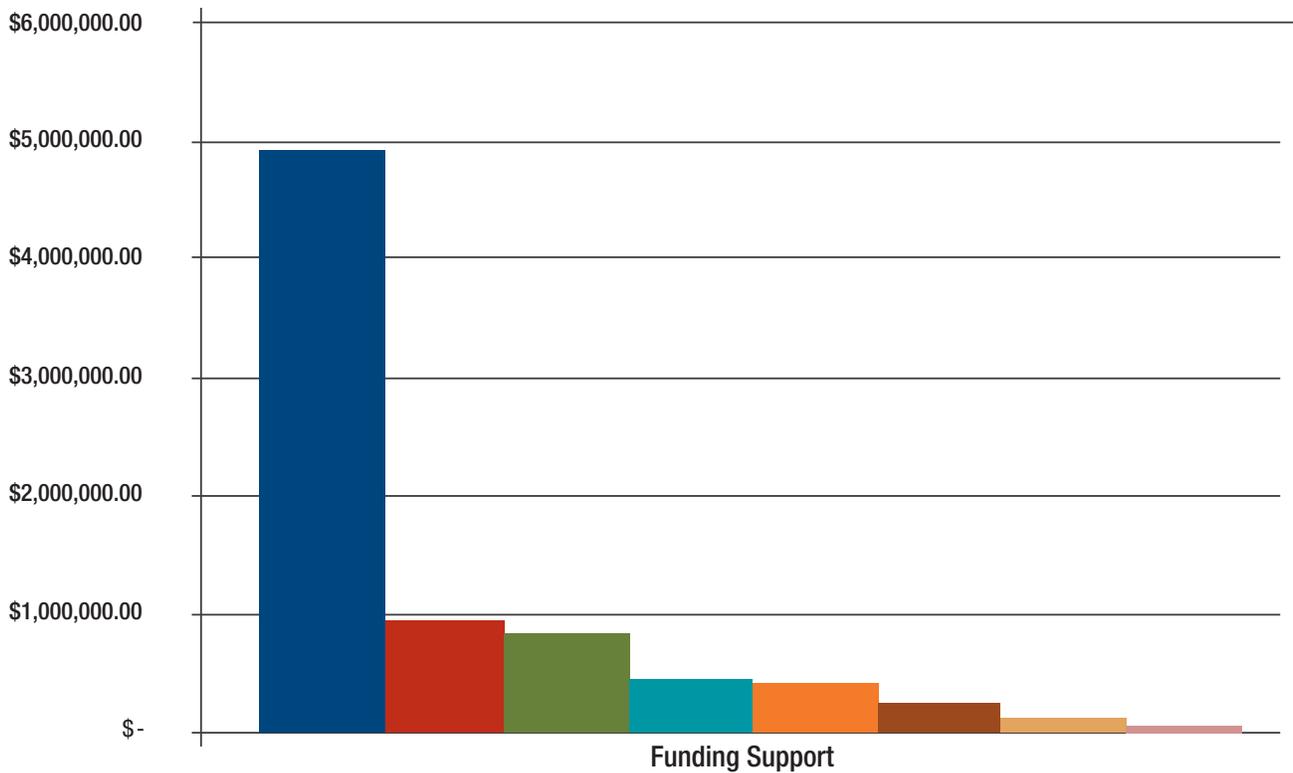
**NOAA**  
**FISHERIES**  
**Pacific Islands**  
**Regional Office**

**Federal Programs Office**  
**2012 Annual Report**



# HIGHLIGHTS OF PIRO'S FEDERAL PROGRAM OFFICE ACTIVITIES

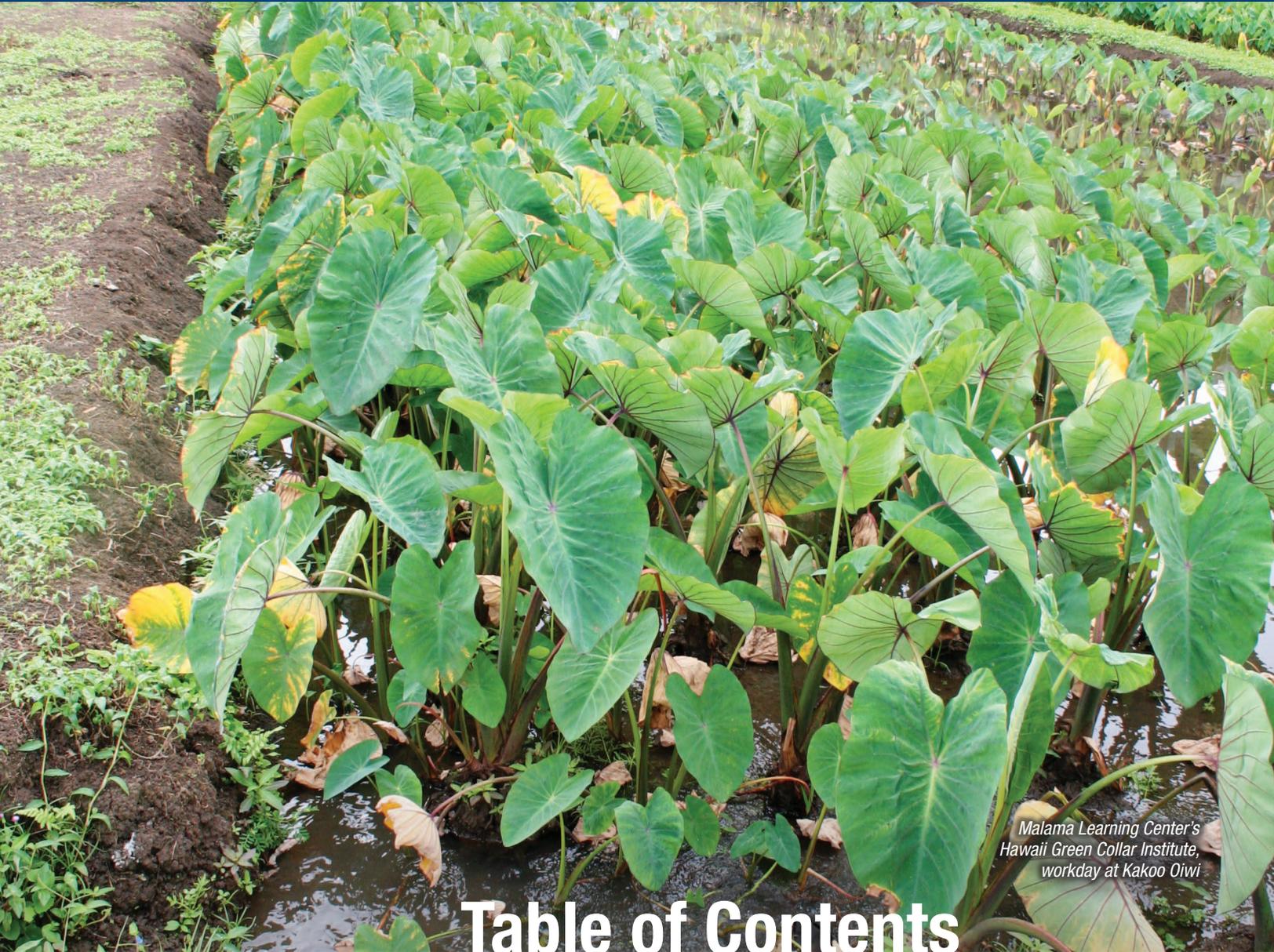
- Maintained and expanded partnerships and collaboration efforts with public and private partners throughout the region to further NOAA's Mission through grants and cooperative Agreements
- Processed 62 grant actions
- Provided \$8,096,280 in grants to regional constituents
- Facilitated a total of \$959,189 to JIMAR contract and the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission



■ Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council  
 ■ Joint Institute of Marine and Atmospheric Research  
 ■ Marine Education and Training

■ Marine Turtle Program  
 ■ Other  
 ■ Aquaculture

■ Monk Seal  
 ■ Spinner Dolphins



*Malama Learning Center's  
Hawaii Green Collar Institute,  
workday at Kakoo Oiwi*

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*Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs Tony Babauta visits the 4H Summer High School Fishery Project at the Guam Fishermen's Cooperative*

## I. Introduction

### Federal Programs Office

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 (CNMI). The Federal Programs Office administers a broad range of financial assistance and program partnership activities directed at supporting the core mission of NOAA Fisheries Service.

The Federal Programs Office is located at the Pacific Islands Regional Office 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 period, for each individual grant, to facilitate the successful completion of project objectives.

The Federal Programs Office supports the NOAA Fisheries Service mission through both competitive and noncompetitive grants and cooperative agreements. Grant programs funded through PIRO during fiscal year 2012 include: Pacific Islands Region Marine Turtle Management Program, Partnerships for the Marine Mammal Response and Hawaiian Monk Seal Recovery Program, Marine Education and Training Mini Grants Program, Western Pacific Fishery Management Council, Cooperative Institute Program, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, and miscellaneous other projects that meet criteria under the 2012 Broad Agency Announcement.

The Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) is a NOAA-wide notice and request for proposals for special projects and programs associated with NOAA's strategic plan and mission goals. The BAA is a mechanism to encourage research, education and outreach, innovative projects, or sponsorships that are not addressed through NOAA's competitive discretionary programs.



*Guam Organization of Saltwater Anglers American Disabilities Act project site*

## II. Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council

The Western Pacific Regional 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 total, the WPFMC received \$4,940,699 in NOAA support in FY12.

In FY10, the WPFMC was provided a 5-year base administrative cooperative agreement which provides the mechanism through which funds are awarded and managed as defined in the MSRA. In addition to congressionally directed funding, the WPFMC also receives NMFS discretionary funding in support of Annual Catch Limits (ACL) implementation, Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) Stipends, Regulatory Streamlining Program (RSP), National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) support, Council peer review support, and additional travel support for unfunded meetings.



Guam TASI - Flying Proa

In 2012, the WPFMC received \$3,411,699 in core MSRA funding and an additional \$1,529,000 in program funds for a total of \$4,940,699. This funding supported the following:

- 1) *Base Administration Award (\$2,745,630)*
- 2) *Annual Catch Limits implementation (\$226,970)*
- 3) *Scientific and Statistical Committee (\$58,632)*
- 4) *Regulatory Streamlining Program (\$92,502)*
- 5) *National Environmental Policy Act (\$88,584)*
- 6) *Council Peer Review (\$149,381)*
- 7) *Additional travel support for unfunded meetings (\$50,000)*

#### 8) *Protected Species Conservation and Management Program (\$500,000)*

The WPFMC Protected Species Conservation and Management Program aims to address fisheries interactions with protected species, and has achieved significant reductions in sea turtle and seabird interactions in the Hawaii-based longline fishery through the adoption of various mitigation technologies. WPFMC also supports conservation projects at nesting beaches and foraging grounds for North Pacific loggerhead turtles and the Western Pacific leatherback turtles, both of which are high priority subpopulations due to historically high interactions with Hawaii-based fisheries. In 2012, \$500,000 was allocated to this program.

#### 9) *Western Pacific Sustainable Fisheries Fund III (\$1,029,000)*

In accordance with the Magnuson-Steven Act (Section 204(7)), the Western Pacific Sustainable Fisheries Fund is made available to the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council to implement projects consistent with approved Marine Conservation Plans (MCPs) within the Western Pacific Region. In 2012, a single award was issued via this authority. The following projects relate to American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Hawaii and the Pacific Remote Island Areas, respectively.

In American Samoa, the Council will: (1) Continue fishery development objectives through the funding of fresh fish training and demonstration projects, and (2) Continue funding the American Samoa Fisheries Development Coordinator, which has been responsible for implementing fisheries development projects (e.g. fuel storage, ice making facilities in the Manua Islands) described in the Council's first SFF grant (June 2010).

In the CNMI, funds will be used for the following three projects: (3) Evaluation of a mandatory fishing logbook reporting program, (4) Pelagic fish resource assessment in EEZ around CNMI, and (5) Assembly and deployment of shallow-water community FADs off Tinian.

In Guam, funds will be used for the following two projects: (6) Development of village fisheries management plans, and (7) Deployment of deep-water community FADs.

In Hawaii funds will be used for the following projects: (8) Mokauea fishing village community education, (9) Puwalu (conference) on implementing the Aha Moku management system, (10) Deployment of deep-water community Fish Aggregating Devices and Regional workshop, (11) Characterization of the Cross Seamount pelagic multi-gear fishery; (12) Community Meetings to Further an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management; and, (13) Seafood waste to aquaculture feed.

Projects to be implemented across the Western Pacific Region include the following: (14) Pilot surveys at unsampled ports and shorelines to calibrate adjustment factors in the expansion of catch, effort and catch per unit effort from the existing creel survey in American Samoa, Guam, and CNMI, (15) Fisheries and ecosystem science internship program, (16) Council education and outreach assistant, and (17) Regional fisheries development workshops.

*Hawaii Green Collar Institute - Super Sucker*

### III. Marine Education and Training

Public Law 109-479 states “the Secretary shall, in cooperation with the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council establish programs that will improve communication, education, and training on marine resource issues throughout the region and increase scientific education for marine related professions among coastal community residents, including indigenous Pacific Islanders, Native Hawaiians, and other underrepresented groups in the region”. The Pacific Islands Region Marine Education and Training Mini-Grant Program, through an annual federal funding solicitation and competitive review and selection process, in cooperation with the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, aims to fulfill this charge. In 2012 the PIRO competitively funded 10 one-year projects through this competition, awarding a total of \$148,218.00.

#### 1) *The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Native Hawaiian Scientific Dive Training (\$15,000)*

This project will provide emerging local leaders with strong community ties and fishing experience training toward internationally recognized scientific diving certification to increase the local capacity to support coral reef research in Hawaii. At the successful conclusion of this training the students will be prepared and qualified to participate in scientific diving activities in conjunction with coral reef research projects with local, state, and/or federal partners. This training will take place on Oahu and will include classroom and in-water dive training in support of active TNC research and monitoring projects currently underway.

**2) Richard B. Seman, *Traditional Fishing & Coral Reefs - Enhancing Their Co-existence* (\$15,000)**

This proposal will provide hands-on training and education in the traditional method of spear fishing. The training course will be conducted on Tinian and Rota and students undergo two-weeks of lessons on marine environment and spear fishing safety and operation. Students will learn how to identify fish and their habitats and Marine Protected Areas as well as the biology and behavior of corals and coral reefs. Students will also learn the art of spear fishing, the components of a spear-gun, and how it should be handled and properly used in the ocean.

**3) University of Guam, *Marine Training Specialty for Undergraduate students - Quantitative Underwater Ecological Survey Techniques (QUEST) Guam* (\$15,000)**

University of Guam Sea Grant Program (UOGSG) and University of Hawaii (UH) Manoa partnered to integrate marine training opportunities for high school and undergraduate students. Funding supports up to 35 student participants in the QUEST Program. UH Manoa MOP director, Cindy Hunter will provide logistical and experiential expertise as well as leveraged funds towards the development of a Guam QUEST course and its implementation. UOGSG intends to continue this course on an annual basis and will integrate it into ongoing efforts to establish a MOP/Marine Biology undergraduate degree at UOG.

**4) The Kohala Center, *Empowering the Fisherman: Sustainable Fishing Project* (\$15,000)**

This project will educate the public about fish spawning and life cycles using a combination of Western and traditional Hawaiian knowledge with the goal of influencing public fishing habits to limit overharvesting and to prevent future population declines in key species in West Hawaii. The program will use the "Spawning Guide for the Leeward Coast of Hawaii Island" to teach youth and community members how to fish responsibly. Fifteen outreach sessions is anticipated to teach at least 250 middle and high school students and 1,000 community members on responsibly fishing practices.

**5) Tri-Isle RC&D, *Maunalei Ahupua'a Management Area* (\$15,000)**

The goal of this project is to conduct a creel survey to raise awareness and support that is necessary for marine resources protection and local seafood security for the community of Lanai. The survey will provide an excellent tool to train community members of the Maunalei ahupuaa in communication and observation skills to help increase community involvement in the fishery and ultimately aid in community driven management of the marine nearshore area.

**6) Malama Learning Center, *Hawaii Green Collar Institute Marine Program, Spring 2013* (\$15,000)**

In partnership with Leeward Community College (LCC), Malama Learning Center (MLC) will conduct a session over spring break (March 2013), with 24 students attending a five-day seminar. Subject areas to be covered will span climate change to native habitat restoration, ocean energy development to community engagement. Guest speakers from government agencies, non-profit organizations and businesses will engage students in their work through presentations and on-site visits. At least four field/service trips will be planned so that students will learn by doing.

**7) Hawaii Seafood Council, *Support for the 2012 Hawaii Fishing and Seafood Festival* (\$15,000)**

The Hawaii Seafood Council (HSC) will plan and coordinate the Seafood Program of the 7th Annual Hawaii Fishing and Seafood Festival on October 7, 2012. The purpose of the festival is to showcase and celebrate Hawaii's fishing and seafood heritage through activities, outreach and practical training workshops in an enjoyable community event on the working waterfront in Honolulu Harbor. HSC will use the funds to contribute to shared festival costs, HSC's Seafood Program labor needs and festival supplies.

**8) University of Guam, *4H Guam Fishermen's Coop Seamanship* (\$15,000)**

This project will promote marine resource workforce preparation by providing: (1) non-formal education workshops, awareness, and demonstration sites to promote Guam Seamanship, (2) an educational enrichment program in the art of basic fiberglass and woutboard service to middle and high school students, (3) a basic seafood safety to training to enhance skills for seafood workforce preparation, and (4) an educational enrichment program in traditional fishing methods to middle and high school students.



*Guam Fishermen's Cooperative*



*Kahakuloa, Maui - Aquaponics in Loi*

**9) Malama Pupukea-Waimea, *Developing Marine Managers on Oahu's North Shore Through Hands-On Experiences* (\$13,218)**

This project will increase practical biological and socioeconomic knowledge of marine resources on the North Shore of Oahu through (1) teaching at least 15 North Shore Oahu youth about marine resources management and its possibilities as a career option; (2) preparing at least one graduate students for a marine resources management career that incorporates biological and social sciences including local and traditional ecological knowledge; and (3) training at least 15 community members in both biological and socioeconomic component of fisheries management.

**10) Richard B. Seman, *Youth Education on Marine Fisheries and Resources* (\$15,000)**

This proposal will provide hands-on training and education in marine and fisheries resources to 10-15 high school youth on each of the islands of Tinian and Rota. During the two-week training course, students will learn fish identifications and bio-sampling, understand fish habitats and the need to protect them, understand marine debris and how it affects and destroys marine life, understand the need to set aside habitats for marine species and the role of MPAs, know the various fishing methods commonly practiced in the CNMI, and understand corals and coral reefs and the vital role it plays in the marine ecosystem.

In addition to the projects supported via the mini-grant program, PIRO issued Marine Education and Training awards; either grants via NOAA's Broad Agency Announcement, or as non-competitive discretionary awards. In FY12, these additional awards totaled \$675,306.

**1) Alu Like Inc, *Native Fishery Observer Preparatory and Training Program for Native Hawaiians, American Samoans, Native Americans, Alaskan Natives and Residents of the Trust Territories* (\$250,000)**

This award will provide recruitment and training opportunities to residents from the Pacific Islands for employment as fishery observers in the Hawaii fishery and those fisheries recognized throughout the Western Pacific by the NOAA Fisheries Service. The components of this project include recruitment, screening and assessment, orientation, and a preparatory training program. The training project provides recruits with the practical knowledge and fundamental technical skills needed to successfully pass the NOAA Fisheries Pacific Islands Regional Office (PIRO) formal observer training class and become certified fishery observers. Post training activities involve the monitoring and counseling of recruits during their enrollment in the PIRO observer training class and after recruits become employed as full-time observers.

**2) University of Hawaii Sea Grant College Program, *Building Pacific Islander Capacity by Documenting Climate Change Events of the Past* (\$60,306)**

The primary goal of this project is to build skills and capacity of Pacific Islanders in Hawaiian language translation of the Hawaiian language newspaper archive and increase stakeholder knowledge of climate change through education and outreach activities that disseminate information about past climate change events in Hawaii. The project proposes to provide public accessibility to the index of more than 4,000 previously identified weather- and climate-related articles in the Hawaiian language newspapers that were published from 1834 to 1948. By providing wider accessibility to this database, Sea Grant hopes to further more investigation by climate scientists and researchers seeking relevant articles and data that share patterns of past weather and climate-related events about Hawaii. This referenced resource will help Pacific Island societies gain a better understanding of climate risks based on the acute written observations and discussions of educated native Hawaiians over the past 200 years and utilize that knowledge to increase their resilience to current climate impacts. This effort directly supports the goals of NOAA's strategic plan for a Weather-ready Nation and contributes to the objectives of the Climate Adaptation and Mitigation goal.

### 3) University of Hawaii, Aquaculture Training and Online Learning (ATOLL) Phase 2 (\$60,000)

Funds continue to support the Aquaculture Training and Online Learning (ATOLL) program. The purpose of the ATOLL educational program is to increase food security and self-sufficiency by increasing the numbers of citizens involved in fish farming. The initial ATOLL platform built by the University of Hawaii Aquaculture Program involves the delivery of 80 unique, “mini-documentary” online video presentations which introduce the field of aquaculture to students ages 16–80. A dedicated social network helps to facilitate online discussions between students and faculty.

### 4) University of Hawaii, Support for the University of Hawaii at Manoa Marine Option Program (\$225,000)

The Marine Option Program (MOP) on a system-wide basis helps to guide the career paths of approximately 360 student participants currently enrolled in the program at multiple campuses. An additionally important aspect of the program is as a recruitment tool for all campuses at the University of Hawaii through off-site outreach activities at high schools, career fairs, on the internet, and by direct contact during campus visitations by students and their families. MOP also acts as a training/proving ground for high performing students in preparing them for specific ocean-oriented agencies through classroom and field experiences.

### 5) Hawaii Academy of Sciences, Using Technology to Increase the Impact of the Science Fair in Hawaii (\$50,000)

The Hawaii State Science & Engineering Fair, which provides students in grades 6-12 in both public and private schools throughout Hawaii an opportunity to conduct scientific research and to present their findings in a professional setting. This award supports the Hawaii Academy of Science’s Program Manager to manage both the State Science Fair and the Student Symposium for Science and Sustainability.

### 6) Kupu, Hawaii Youth Conservation Core – Marine Module (\$30,000)

Kupu’s Hawaii Youth Conservation Core (HYCC) program has four major components: (1) Extended Internship Program; (2) Gateway Program; (3) Frontier Program; and (4) Community Assistance Program. HYCC members engage in on-the-job training, service learning, leadership, and teamwork skills. Each member earns a stipend and can apply to gain college credits through the Natural Resource and Environmental Management Department at the University of Hawaii. HYCC places at least one team per island (six islands) and the members are usually from the island in which they work on. Members participate in one week of training, and five weeks of educational field work with over 50 different conservation agencies, landowners, and non-profit organizations that HYCC collaborates with on a yearly basis. For the duration of the summer, participants are in the field where they assist conservation agencies with much needed conservation and environmental restoration work. Site managers oversee the team leaders and their members, providing them with work projects, site specific equipment, tools, and supervision.



Loko Ea, Haleiwa - workday

## PIRO’s Marine Underwater Techniques Training (Internal program)

In FY12, the PIRO implemented its second annual Marine Underwater Techniques Training (MUTT). The MUTT program is a partnership between NMFS PIRO Habitat Conservation Division, the NOAA Restoration Center, Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, the University of Hawaii and the State of Hawaii and gives a crucial link to young scientists entering the workforce by giving them technical skills which will allow them to develop into effective resource managers. The training is in direct support of the individual NOAA mandates across line offices and is a strong coordinated effort, bringing together expertise from a diverse set of highly qualified NOAA scientists. This cross-cutting endeavor creates a synergy of knowledge that provides a unique and powerful learning experience for the students of Hawaii. In FY12, six (6) of the most-qualified and recommended undergraduate students from the UH Scientific Dive Program were selected and received training in advanced underwater mapping techniques including standards transect methodology, towed GPS photo-mapping, boat based single beam sonar bathymetry, and high precision underwater acoustic mapping. Students presented their work at the end of the final week with a brown bag seminar open to NOAA PIRO and PIFSC staff. PIRO expended \$20,850 on this effort.



Turtle Monitoring

## IV. Marine Turtle Program

The Pacific Islands Region Marine Turtle Program, established within PIRO's Protected Resources Division (PRD), supports specific programmatic activities for conservation, protection, or management of listed sea turtle species. Such species may occur within the Pacific Islands Region (PIR) or have documented linkages to the PIR, such as turtles that may originate from areas outside of U.S. jurisdiction but migrate through or forage within the PIR or may interact with PIR fisheries managed by NOAA/NMFS. In 2012 the PIRO PRD issued federal assistance awards in the amount of \$466,458.

### 1) Ocean Discovery Institute, *Proposal to test illumination as a method to reduce bycatch in small-scale commercial gillnet fisheries* (\$28,950)

Research proposed under the financial award is directed to testing the use of ultra-violet (UV) LEDs to illuminate gillnets to reduce sea turtle bycatch. Anatomical studies indicate that sea turtles are sensitive to UV light suggesting that the UV spectrum may selectively alert sea turtles. Objectives of these projects relate to Priorities 1 and 2 and outlined in the U.S. Sea Turtle Recovery plans in that a reduction in sea turtle bycatch rates will prevent the decline and extinction of the species, as bycatch in fisheries is a significant threat to existing turtle populations. The research seeks methods to mitigate and reduce bycatch in small-scale fisheries.



Hawksbill Turtles Hawaii

nesting and hatchling success in all three species that nest there); (2) Implement community-based Turtle Monitoring Programs on Rendova and Vangunu Islands where the same marine turtle populations are nesting; and (3) Conduct outreach and awareness sessions to enhance participatory community engagement in the programs.

**5) Hawaii Wildlife Fund, *Monitoring, Researching and Protecting Maui's Nesting and Foraging Hawksbill Population (2012-2013)* (\$35,360)**

The primary goal of the Hawaii Wildlife Fund's Hawksbill Recovery Project (HWF-HRP) is to monitor, research and protect nesting and foraging Hawaiian hawksbills to increase survivorship and aid in the recovery of this endangered species. HWF-HRP's actions drastically increase this Maui population's rate of survival and align with the 1998 NMFS and USFWS's Hawksbill Recovery Plan.

**2) Marine Research Foundation, *In-Water identification of spatio-temporal distribution of Western Pacific leatherback sea turtles foraging in the South China and Sulu Seas* (\$80,000)**

This project aims to determine via aerial surveys the spatial and temporal residence patterns for critically endangered leatherback sea turtles in the Western Pacific region, in particular off the coasts of the Philippines in the South China/Sulu seas. Through this project, MRF hopes to ascertain information that will (1) determine the seasonal and spatial distribution of the turtles through quarterly standardized flights at three key index sites through aerial surveys; (2) estimate the probability of detection at zero perpendicular distance from leather back turtle dive data, for use in line-transect analysis of aerial surveys for leatherback density estimation; (3) document the overlap between fishery activity and turtle habitat in the South China and Sulu Seas in Western Philippines; and (4) document the distribution and numbers of other key marine species.

**3) Marine Research Foundation, *Community-based conservation of leatherback turtles along the Huon Coast, Papua New Guinea 2012-2013* (\$27,149)**

Research proposed under this financial award is directed to enhancing hatchling production by reducing egg harvest and predation, integrating local community in conservation and nest monitoring activities, collecting population information and nesting demographic data, collecting genetic samples, and exploring resource management strategies.

**4) Tetepare Descendants' Association, *Solomon Islands Community-Based Marine Turtle Monitoring, Conservation, and Community Engagement on Tetepare, Rendova, and Vangunu Islands* (\$12,000)**

This project is dedicated to the stewardship of Tetepare's intact natural heritage. In order to support and expand on the following initiatives: (1) Continue the existing Turtle Monitoring Program on Tetepare Island (to better understand drivers of



Turtle Monitoring

**6) Michael Graham White, Nesting census and genetic sampling of an unstudied marine turtle population at Tongareva Atoll, Norther Cooks Islands (\$30,000)**

The sea turtle research proposed under the financial award will be based initially at Tongareva Atoll. The research is directed to establishing baseline data; identifying the species; determining nesting abundance; noting the egg-laying & 'peak-nesting' periods; flipper-tagging & genetic sampling; and identifying threats and impacts. The proposed main study site ~ Mangarongaro motu ~ will allow population trends to be determined over time. Educational modules will integrate modern scientific principles with traditional management practices and knowledge; and an appropriate approach to turtle conservation will be developed with the islanders. Genetic characterization will elucidate connectivity with other regional turtle stocks and will extend regional knowledge of shared resources that are impacted by fisheries (i.e. bycatch).

**7) CNMI Department of Land and Natural Resources, Stewardship of Northern Mariana Islands Sea Turtles through Conservation and Management (\$45,999)**

Research proposed under this financial award is directed to monitoring Saipan's foraging population stocks and includes nesting abundance through surveys that include near-shore capture/tagging, tow-boat, morning nesting beach monitoring, night tagging on nesting beaches, and stranding network work including stranding/confiscation recoveries. The purpose of these activities is to document the sea turtle population off the waters of the Northern Mariana Islands.

**8) American Samoa Department of Marine & Wildlife Resources, American Samoa Marine Turtle Conservation Program (\$77,000)**

This project aims to continue its turtle conservation programs throughout American Samoa. Specifically, funds are requested for the marine turtle conservation program in Manu'a as well as to support ongoing activities in Tutuila initiated with previous NOAA grants.

**9) World Turtle Trust, Hawaii Island Hawksbill Turtle Education and Conservation Program (\$100,000)**

These funds support the World Turtle Trust to support implementation efforts of the Hawaii Island Hawksbill Turtle Recovery Project (HIHTRP). Personnel and volunteers provide continuous nightly monitoring and predator control at known hawksbill nesting habitat on the island of Hawaii. Data is collected on nesting turtles and hatchlings in a continued effort to understand population trends and spatial and temporal nest distribution. This data is essential to determining appropriate management measures to protect Hawaii's hawksbill turtles and their habitat.

**10) Malama Na Honu, Malama Na Honu educational outreach and volunteer safety – a three year program (\$30,000)**

Malama na Honu (MNH) works to promote healthy marine ecosystems that support the conservation of Hawaiian sea turtles, which in turn will benefit society. MNH serves an important stewardship role in protecting basking Hawaiian sea turtles through public outreach and education and volunteer safety programs.



Hawksbill Turtles Hawaii

*Hawaiian Monk Seals*

## V. Hawaiian Monk Seal and Marine Mammal Program

### Hawaiian Monk Seal Recovery & Marine Mammal Response Program

The Pacific Islands Regional Office Hawaiian Monk Seal Recovery and Marine Mammal Response Program, established within PIRO PRD, supports specific programmatic activities related to the recovery of endangered Hawaiian monk seals and responses to marine mammal “takes” (strandings, harassments, entanglements and hookings) in the main Hawaiian Islands. This program supports community-based and community-integrated projects, such as projects with an educational component geared to elevate public awareness and build capacity from the community level for Hawaiian monk seal recovery and marine mammal response. In 2012 PIRO PRD issued federal assistance awards in the amount of \$136,300.

#### 1) **Trisha Watson, Kilakila o Kanaloa: Cultural Support for Marine Mammal Response Activities (\$20,000)**

Kilakila o Kanaloa is a project that provides cultural support and liaison work for marine mammal response activities. The project funds would support staff time and travel time in assisting the marine mammal response program in conducting activities in a manner that was culturally sensitive and facilitated community engagement and management of community concerns.

## 2) University of Hawaii at Hilo, Marine Mammal Response Network 2012/2013 (\$14,000)

The purpose of this project is to build the necessary capacity for monk seal response and cetacean stranding response and to assist organizations and programs described above that are needed on the island of Hawaii. The addresses Priority 1 and 2 of the Partnerships for the Marine Mammal Response and Hawaiian Monk Seal Recovery Program via three specific goals: (1) Build response network capacity to demonstrate appropriate response to marine mammal situations; (2) Disseminate outreach and messaging to the public in various forums using various outreach tools; and (3) Continuing education of volunteers organization and county/state agency and local business partners in marine mammal conservation and stranding responses. All efforts on behalf of this project are considered education and outreach related and no animal take will occur as a result of project activities.

## 3) Monk Seal Foundation, Marine Mammal Conference and Planning Meetings (\$47,000)

The Monk Seal Foundation (MSF) will host a series of meetings designed to bring together key teams and stakeholders in the Hawaiian monk seal recovery process. These meetings will serve as an important educational opportunity for Marine Mammal Response Team Members as well as providing critical input and assistance to NOAA Fisheries on the Main Hawaiian Islands Monk Seal Management Plan. The two goals of this project are to (1) bring together staff, volunteer and partner members of the Pacific Region Marine Mammal Response Network in order to provide updates on the status of the Marine Mammal Response network as well as continuing education on emerging issues in Hawaii monk seal recovery and Cetacean Stranding; and (2) bring together stakeholders and issue experts to assist NOAA Fisheries in finalizing a strategic level management plan regarding issues and threats in the Hawaiian monk seal recovery process in the Main Hawaiian Islands.

## 4) Monk Seal Foundation, Monk Seal Education & Outreach (\$8,000)

The Monk Seal Foundation proposes to deliver printed materials about the Hawaiian monk seal to Maui County hotels, condominiums, and other tourist locations. Our program will increase awareness and understanding of key issues facing the species as well as highlighting the critical role the public plays in recovery efforts by targeting tourist-industry residents and tourists staying in oceanfront accommodations.

## 5) Hawaiian Monk Seal Response Team Oahu, Support of NMFS PIRO response efforts (\$33,000)

The Hawaiian Monk Seal Response Team Oahu (HMSTRO) proposed project is to continue with its partnership with NOAA/NMFS in the recovery of the Hawaiian monk seals on the main Hawaiian islands. HMSTRO plans to continue with the project plan from 2010-2011 volunteer response coordinators with improvement in specific areas. HMSTRO continues to be involved with community programs, and reaching out to local businesses. HMSTRO's primary objective in support of NOAA's Hawaiian Monk Seal Recovery Plan is to coordinate volunteer response efforts, educational presentations and outreach events to raise public support and awareness. Neither HMSTRO nor its volunteers will participate in any animal takes while performing volunteer responsibilities under this project.

## 6) Molokai Community Service Council, Monk Seal Liaison for Monk Seal Conservation (\$14,300)

This project will create a part-time Community Liaison between the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and Molokai community members and organizations regarding Hawaiian monk seal conservation.

## Marine Mammal Management Program

In addition to the projects listed above, PIRO PRD also supports projects that provide economic, sociological, public policy, and other information needed by Federal and State natural resource administrators for conserving and managing fishery resources and protected species and their environment in Federal, State, and U.S. territorial waters. Information derived from project studies may consist of econometric data, user profiles, sociological case studies, policy and systems analyses, and other knowledge, and is used in such decisions as resource allocations, total and zonal harvest determinations, and initial apportionment of harvesting rights under controlled access management regimes. In 2012 PIRO awarded 1 grant, totaling \$65,000.

### 1) Duke University, Augmenting Studies of the Effects of Humans Interactions on Spinner Dolphins in Resting Bays in Hawaii (\$65,000)

This award supports a study conducted in partnership with NOAA Fisheries to guide NOAA's management consideration of time area closures in resting bays throughout Hawaii to reduce the number and intensity of interactions between humans and dolphins during critical rest periods. To address the efficacy of this approach, significant research is required to assess how spinners respond to the closure, and how this may affect their local abundance, distribution and behavior.



*Veilella array with CuPod in tow (Source: Kona Blue Water Farms, 2011).*



*Kampachi Farms Veilella project (Source: Kona Blue Water Farms, 2011)*

## VI. Aquaculture Program

The mission of PIRO's Aquaculture Program is to foster marine aquaculture that creates employment and business opportunities in coastal communities; provides safe, sustainable seafood; and supports healthy ocean populations and ecosystems. Aquaculture is one of a range of technologies needed to meet increasing global demand for seafood, support commercial and recreational fisheries, and restore species and marine habitat. In FY12 the PIRO issued 2 awards totaling \$250,000.

### 1) *Kampachi Farms, Alternative dietary protein sources and alternative high-value species for expansion of domestic US marine fish aquaculture (\$210,000)*

This project incorporates two lines of inquiry into more sustainable aquaculture practices: sustainable diets, and alternative high-value species for culture. The feeds component of this work examines novel sustainable protein sources as substitutes for fishmeal in the diets of kampachi. Products that offer promising results will be used to grow fish to a marketable size for a consumer taste test. The alternative species component of this work will refine spawning and aquaculture grow-out methods for high-value grouper species, and extend this work towards developing a restocking program for the giant grouper, using roi as a proxy species in lieu of giant grouper spawns. Results of these trials will be shared with the industry through publications and presentations at industry related conferences.

### 2) *University of Hawaii—HIMB, Developing a Prototype to test the Marine Aquaponics System (\$40,000)*

This project will support the development of a marine aquaculture system that is modular and will provide data (e.g., species selection, stocking density and overall mass balance of nitrogen) for the various parameters necessary to scale up to prototype development. The purpose of this project is to expand the aquaculture and aquaponic industries and generate increased economic activity for the State of Hawaii. The overall goal of this project is to demonstrate that marine aquaponic technologies can be used to produce a species of ogo native to Hawaii, *Gracilaria parvospora*, using various combinations of native marine fish and shrimp. To accomplish this goal, the project will document production outputs using a single pass flow through culture system as well as a closed re-circulating aquaponic system; establish a prototype module and operate to demonstrate the commercial feasibility; and train students and volunteers in the operation of the production module.

## VII. Other Discretionary Awards

The PIRO supports grants and cooperative agreements that provide for 1) biological, economic, sociological, public policy, and other research and administration projects that benefit U.S. fisheries industries and contribute to the economic and social welfare of the Nation; 2) the development of innovative approaches and methods for ensuring the safety, quality and integrity of U.S. fishery products; and 3) support of 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. In 2012 PIRO awarded 3 discretionary cooperative agreements and partnership support totaling \$434,260.



*American Samoa Fish Market Fish ID & Count*

**1) American Samoa Department of Marine & Wildlife Resources, American Samoa Fisheries Stock Assessment and Monitoring Program (\$66,000)**

This project provides both technical and financial support to the Department of Marine & Wildlife Resources of the American Samoa Government to assess and monitor the status of fish species caught within American Samoa's EEZ. The data obtained through this project will be the main source of information that will be utilized to address local and federal requirements for Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs). Through the cooperative efforts between federal and local agencies, the overall goal of this proposed project is to provide fisheries information in a timely fashion to develop, implement, and evaluate Fisheries Management Plans for the territory of American Samoa and the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council.

**2) Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning contractor and science workshop support via joint cooperative agreement with AKR (\$156,260)**

Coastal and marine spatial planning (CMSP) is a process that allows agencies to better plan and site activities that occur within the coastal and marine areas as well as across them. CMSP is comprehensive, integrated, ecosystem-based, and transparent; it is also based on sound science. To develop the Pacific Islands CMSP plan such that it is science-based and adaptive, the available data and science

programs of the Pacific Islands must be identified, as well as data gaps. The workshop will result in a synthesis of available scientific data available from partner agencies and NOAA, as well as identify data gaps and needs that should be addressed for the success of CMSP. The synthesis will aid the development of the CMSP plan for the Pacific Islands Region and be utilized in future planning efforts.

**3) Community Restoration Partnership – Funding committed towards FY13 Community-Based Restoration Program competitive projects that forward the mission of PIRO's Habitat Conservation Division and Marine Education and Training Program (\$212,000)**

Funds support the broad-based, public-private partnership between NOAA, Hawaii Community Foundation, Harold K.L. Castle Foundation, the State of Hawaii and others, focusing on supporting community organizations engaged in environmental restoration and stewardship activities among coastal and marine habitats in Hawaii. It incorporates proven traditional techniques with sound science-based methods, and offers innovative approaches to effective, on-the-ground restoration that is supported by, and implemented through, the direct assistance of local communities who are most heavily invested in the project areas.



*Waipa, Kauai - Charter School Fieldtrip*



*Waipa Kauai - Fishpond*



Hawaii Green Collar Institute - Dumping Signage

## VIII. Joint Institute of Marine and Atmospheric Research

The Pacific Islands Regional Office Grants Program supported 4 initiatives under the Cooperative Institute Program through the Joint Institute of Marine and Atmospheric Research (JIMAR) in 2012. A total of \$959,189 will be used to maintain contract support for the Pacific Islands Regional Office programs. FY12 JIMAR initiatives include:

- 1) **Observer Program Initiative (\$238,236)**
- 2) **Protected Resources Environmental Compliance Initiative (\$325,753)**
- 3) **Outreach and Education Group Initiative (\$220,039)**
- 4) **Sustainable Fisheries Initiative (\$175,161)**

## IX. Pacific Region Grants Cooperative

The NOAA Pacific Region Grants Cooperative (PRGC) provides increased grants management services and engagement with Pacific Island NOAA grantees, while supporting NOAA's Grants Management Division interests and efforts in the Pacific Islands region. The PRGC supplies regular, real-time, and geographically-based Pacific Islands NOAA grantee training opportunities and other capacity building activities, sharing useful information, tools, and resources regarding financial management across the region, and collaborating, coordinating, and communicating regularly across NOAA line office grants management staff based in the Pacific Islands. In 2012, in light of budgetary constraints, the PRGC leveraged partnerships and relationships to continue collaborative efforts. The PRGC continues to maintain a presence in communities throughout the Western Pacific Region, participating in conferences, workshops, festivals and the like.



Hawaii Fish Auction



American Samoa Drop-stone fishing method



Hawaii Fish Auction

## X. 2012 Unfunded Federal Programs

### The following programs were not funded in FY12

**Fisheries Development and Utilization Research and Development Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program, Saltonstall-Kennedy Grant Program:** The Saltonstall-Kennedy Act (15 U.S.C. §713c-3, as amended) authorizes the Secretary to provide federal assistance for fisheries research and development programs. Funds were last allocated to the Saltonstall-Kennedy Grant Program in 2010 and it is hoped that funding will return to support this program in 2013.

**Western Pacific Demonstration Projects:** Public Law 104-297 (16 U.S.C. 1855) authorizes grants for Western Pacific Demonstration Projects that foster and promote the involvement of western Pacific communities in the western Pacific.



*Malama Hawaii Workshop*

management goals. The Marine Sanctuaries Program within NOAA Fisheries PIRO functions to support the management objectives of the three MNMs — Marianas Trench MNM, Rose Atoll MNM, and Pacific Remote Islands MNM.

**Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act of 1986:** 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. The data obtained is the principle source of information and analysis of fisheries activities and management options used to address federal requirements for Fisheries Management plans under the jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries. Congress allocated no funds to this program in 2012.



*Hawaii Green Collar Institute - Kakoo Oiwi*



*Hawaii Green Collar Institute - Moku o Loe*

**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.

**Pacific Islands Region Marine National Monuments Program:** In 2009, three Marine National Monuments (MNM) were designated by Presidential Proclamation to protect the relatively undisturbed marine ecosystems that are flourishing with healthy coral reefs, large numbers of apex predators, fish biomass, and seabirds in the Pacific Islands Region. Management plans for the Marianas Trench MNM, Rose Atoll MNM, and Pacific Remote Islands MNM are in preparation. These plans will guide management to preserve and protect the resources in these isolated locations. NOAA annually solicits proposals for projects to fulfill the objectives of the Proclamations and MNM

## XI. Summary of Accomplishments and Program Goals

While funds were not available to assist with capacity building workshops, PIRO Federal Program Officers ensured that a presence at various workshops throughout the Pacific was maintained. Program Officers maintained close relationships with constituents, resulting in enhanced communication with grantees and an overall improvement to the management of federal grants. In addition, a suite of grant training resources were added to the PIRO website at [http://www.fpir.noaa.gov/Grants/grants\\_training\\_application.html](http://www.fpir.noaa.gov/Grants/grants_training_application.html) to assist applicants with their proposal development. Efforts in 2013 will continue to focus on capacity building, working with communities to develop innovative projects, implementing the newly established collaborative Marine Education and Training Program, instituting new grant competitions and furthering the NOAA Fisheries mission to provide stewardship of living marine resources through science-based conservation and management.

