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NOAA to Honor Hawaiian Scientist for Involving Fishermen in Research

NOAA's Fisheries Service will give Clayward Tam of the Hawaii Division of Aquatic Resources a national award for his efforts to involve the fishing community in research on jacks, Hawaii's most highly prized sport and food fish.

Tam, the manager of the Ulua/Papio Tagging Program based in Honolulu, will receive the Research and Technology Award at a ceremony in Washington, D.C., on June 2 as part of the agency's third annual Sustainable Fisheries Leadership Awards Program.

"The health and sustainability of the planet's ocean resources is of paramount importance for the world's environmental, economic and human wellbeing," said retired Navy Vice Adm. Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Ph.D., under secretary of commerce for oceans and atmosphere and NOAA administrator. "The contributions of our honorees inspire others and enhance NOAA's work to conserve and manage our nation's marine resources."

"Clayward Tam's tagging program has given recreational fishermen the chance to play a central role in important ecosystem research for the future of fisheries science and management in Hawaii," said Jim Balsiger, acting assistant administrator for NOAA's Fisheries Service.

Over a six year period, Tam's research program involved more than 2,200 anglers who tagged and released more than 27,000 jacks in the main and northwestern Hawaiian islands. The research has generated important information on the growth, mortality and movement of these key species. And by involving large numbers of fishermen in this research, Tam has helped create an educated and well-informed fishing community that is essential to the sustainable management of these important fish species.

For the full list of Sustainable Fisheries Leadership award winners go to: www.noaa.gov

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, an agency of the U.S. Commerce Department, is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and information service delivery for transportation, and by providing environmental stewardship of our nation's coastal and marine resources. Through the emerging Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), NOAA is working with its federal partners, more than 70 countries and the European Commission to develop a global monitoring network that is as integrated as the planet it observes, predicts and protects.

On the Web:
NOAA's Fisheries Service: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov>