

**GUAM DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
**182nd WESTERN PACIFIC REGIONAL FISHERY**  
**MANAGEMENT COUNCIL MEETING ISLAND REPORT**

**SHORE-BASED FISHERIES**

Report Period: January 1, 2020 to March 31, 2020.

Table 1 shows the top 5 shore based species harvested between January 1, 2020 and March 31, 2020 in terms of total actual weight. Five of the scheduled eight inshore surveys were completed in March, the last on Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup>. *Moolgarda seheli* was the top shore based species harvested followed by *Mulloidichthys flavolineatus*, *Parupeneus barberinus*, *Parupeneus multifasciatus*, and *Siganus spinus* (Table 1). Commonly encountered methods include; Hook and line with 45 fishers and 53 gear, talaya with 6 fishers and 6 gear, gill net with 2 fishers and 2 gear, and snorkel spearfishing with 1 fisher and 1 gear (Table 2). The total number of fishermen and gears observed was 54 and 62, respectively. Other than a requirement for maintaining 6 feet between fishers, there were no other restrictions placed on shore based fishing due to COVID-19

<b>Species</b>	<b>Total weight (actual) (kg)</b>
(Bluespot mullet) <i>Moolgarda seheli</i>	3.073 kg.
(Yellowstipe goatfish) <i>Mulloidichthys flavolineatus</i>	1.132 kg.
(Dash and dot goatfish) <i>Parupeneus barberinus</i>	.938 kg.
(Manybar goatfish) <i>Parupeneus multifasciatus</i>	.923 kg.
(Scribbled rabbitfish) <i>Siganus spinus</i>	.819 kg.

**Table 1. Top five species caught, by weight, during the shore-based fishery during the period January 1, 2020 to March 31, 2020.**

<b>Method</b>	<b>Number of Fishers</b>	<b>Number of Gear</b>
Hook and Line	45	53
Throw net (Talaya)	6	6
Gill net (Tekin)	2	2
Surround net	0	0
Snorkel spear	1	1
SCUBA spear	0	0
Hooks and Gaffs	0	0
Other methods	0	0
Drag Net	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>62</b>

**Table 2. Methods with numbers of fishers and numbers of gear counted during participation surveys in the period January 1, 2020 to March 31, 2020.**

### **BOAT-BASED FISHERIES**

Report Period: January 1, 2020 through March 31, 2020.

The boat-based creel surveys and vehicle-trailer participation surveys continued as scheduled for January and February. For each month, there are eight (8) creel surveys and two (2) participation surveys. During March 2020, government agencies were shut down beginning March 15<sup>th</sup>. Only five (5) creel surveys and the two (2) participation surveys were conducted. Three creel surveys scheduled after March 15<sup>th</sup> were not done.

The expansion for the first quarter time period was not completed because the data technician resigned, and data entry for the boat-based data was only completed to January. Another staff has been trained on the creel data entry and has entered some of the data. The missed creel dates also need to be accounted for in the database. Since participation, catch, and effort summaries need, at the least, a full quarters worth of data inputted, a FY20 summary is not possible at this time. Once the fisheries staff return to the Department of Agriculture (DOAG) the Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources (DAWR) will be inputting the data and account for the missed creel days in order to be able to calculate boat-based catch estimates for FY20.

During the shutdown, the project biologist was making several weekday and weekend visits to the Agana Boat Basin and the Agat Small Boat Marina at approximately 4 PM to gauge the boat-based fishing activity. Since boaters are not prevented from fishing, it may be possible that boat-based activity may continue, especially the Micronesian commercial fishers. The fishing sector that is not expected to operate during the shutdown are the marina commercial berthed boats.

## **BOATING ACCESS PROGRAM:**

### **Talofofu Boat Ramp**

The Guam Economic Development Authority (GEDA) is conducting a feasibility study for Talofofu Bay (Figures 1 and 2) as a potential boat ramp site. DAWR provided recommendations to GEDA regarding the boat ramp design. The initial cost of the study was \$260,000, which GEDA received through an U.S. Department of Interior grant. An additional \$57,000 is needed to proceed from 30% design to 100%. (\$33,000 for boring + \$24,000 for a boring permit). The study is expected to be completed this year. DAWR met with GEDA in March 2019 to discuss the feasibility study, funding a portion of the boring, and funding the construction of the ramp. DAWR agreed to fund approximately \$44,000 of the cost for the boring and permit.

**Update:** The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and work requests for the project have been completed, signed by the Director of Agriculture, and delivered to the Chief Executive Officer of GEDA on May 21, 2020 for review and signature.

Due to the COVID pandemic, USFWS has allowed an automatic extension of all grants, and DOAG DAWR extended this grant to FY2021 to ensure the project moves forward uninterrupted.

**Figure 1. Proposed Talofofu Bay Boat Access Site**



**Figure 2. Talofofu Channel Entrance**



**Replacement of Agat Marina's Dock B/Repair of the Boat Ramp Walkway Bumpers.** Three of the four docks at the Agat marina were replaced by the Port Authority of Guam (PAG), with Dock B not repaired due to funding challenges with the Port. Agriculture has funded phase 1 of replacing Dock B, the demolition and removal of the damaged Dock B. The demolition was completed January 2019 with Agriculture funding 100% of the project in the amount of \$48,678. (Figure 3) As a result, the Port Authority has agreed to set aside Dock B solely for recreational boaters. This will increase available berths for local recreational boaters at the Agat Marina. Agriculture has agreed to fund up to 50% of the cost of replacing Dock B, up to a maximum of \$500,000.

**Update:** The MOU and work requests for the project have been completed and signed by the Director of Agriculture. DAWR staff delivered the MOU and work request on June 1, 2020 to the PAG General Manager for review and signature.

Due to the COVID pandemic, USFWS has allowed an automatic extension of all grants, and DOAG DAWR extended this grant to FY2021 to ensure the project moves forward uninterrupted.



**Figure 3. Photographs of Agat Marina's damaged Dock B before and after demolishing using funds from the Department of Agriculture Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources' (DAWR) Sport Fish Restoration Program.**

**Harbor of Refuge.** Agriculture is assisting the Port Authority of Guam (PAG) with the repair of the Harbor of Refuge. The facility currently does not meet Coast Guard standards, with the moorings and concrete anchors needing replacement. Agriculture is using its Boating Infrastructure Grant Tier 1 funding to fund 75% of the repair work and provide a pumpout station. To qualify for BIG funding, 75% of the Harbor of Refuge's moorings will be set aside for transient vessels to use. DAWR has 4 current BIG sub-awards with the Port Authority of Guam (PAG). Total of all awards is about \$700,000.

The design, engineering, and environmental studies portion of the project has been completed (phase 1 and phase 2), with the construction phase on hold until the approved MOU is approved.

The construction phase consists of replacing the damaged moorings and moorings lines and attaching the new moorings into the existing concrete anchors by re-drilling.

**Update:** The MOU and work requests for the project have been completed and signed by the Director of Agriculture. DAWR staff delivered the MOU and work request on June 1, 2020 to the PAG General Manager for review and signature.

Due to the COVID pandemic, USFWS has allowed an automatic extension of all grants, and DOAG DAWR extended these grants to FY2021 to ensure the project moves forward uninterrupted.

**Merizo Pier and Boat Ramp Facility.** Contractual work is being proposed to repair damage at the Merizo pier and boat ramp facility. These damages include replacing damaged planks on the pier, replacing three missing ladders on the pier, and repairing several light post on the pier. A Scope of Work has been finalized to repair these damages. However, a requirement that all contractual projects require a Memorandum of Understanding is currently being routed for approval before the repair work can be done. The most recent repair work was completed in FY2016 with the ramp's walkways, the ramp and pier bumpers, and the facility's lights repaired (Figures 4 and 5) at cost of \$160,000. The facility is owned by the Merizo Mayor's office, with that agency maintaining the rest rooms, removal of trash, grounds maintenance, and paying the electrical and water bills.

Agriculture is currently planning to have the Merizo pier assessed for structural integrity. Since the pier is over 25 years old and has been subjected to heavy use, category 5 storms, an 8.2 earthquake, and normal wear and tear from exposure to the marine environment, an assessment will be done to address concerns whether the pier may require an overhaul of the concrete pilings, the concrete crossbeams, and the wood decking. This assessment will ensure that the facility remains safe for use by recreational fishers and boaters.

**Update:** The Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Department of Public Works (DPW) was signed by the Governor of Guam on July 13, 2019. DOAg DAWR received the award letter extending the grant to September 30, 2020, and the work request with DPW is being routed for signature.



**Figure 4. Photographs of Merizo Pier's damaged walkways and bumpers, and rusted walkway pilings.**



**Figure 5. Photographs of Merizo Pier’s repaired walkway and bumpers, concrete support on the pier, and pier lights.**

**Law Enforcement**

DATE	GUAM POLICE CASE NUMBER	NUMBER OF PERSONS ARRESTED	ETHNICITY	VIOLATION	ARREST LOCATION
May 2020 – June 2020		No Arrests			

\*MPA= Marine Protected Area

**Table 3. Law Enforcement Violations – March 2020 – May 2020**

**Regulations**

**Introduced Bills**

- Bill 53-35 – Prohibition of fishing with the use of a self-contained underwater breathing apparatus (scuba) and similar devices in the waters of Guam or in any vessel in the waters of Guam. Update: Public hearing was held on November 13, 2019. Individuals from the public testified both in favor and not in favor of the bill. The Department of Agriculture provided testimony and recommended amendments to the bill such as a temporary moratorium on night-time snorkel spearfishing. On March 11, 2020, the 35<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature voted in favor of passing the Bill. The Bill is currently being reviewed by the Governor of Guam.

**Guam Fishing Licenses**

- DAWR met with the Department of Agriculture (DOAG) Director and Deputy Director and reviewed and partially revised the proposed fishing licenses in February 2020. Public Law 33-144 still needs to be repealed to allow DOAG to move forward with the regulations. On May 18, 2020, DOAG reviewed and revised the proposed fishing license regulations after receiving initial comments from Council staff. The proposed license was provided to the Council’s Advisory Panel for review. Next step will be to share the proposed regulations with the Natural Resource Senator.

### **CARES Act Funding**

- Guam will be receiving 1 million dollars in fisheries assistance funding provided by Sec. 12005 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) for fishery participants negatively affected by COVID-19.
- A proposed plan for the distribution of CARES Act funds for Guam's Fisheries was drafted that includes fishers registering with DOAG, cross checking all registered fishers, and establishing 3 tiers of fishers for direct payments. Video/teleconferences were held with DOAG, council staff, and fishers on May 13, 2020 and May 14, 2020 to discuss the proposed plan. A fisher registration form was created to be distributed to identify all fishers and fishing activity on Guam. Furthermore, a meeting was held with the Guam Fishermens Cooperative on May 28, 2020 about the proposed plan.

### **Special permits still continue to be issued for the seasonal take of:**

- Atulai (Big Eye Scads),
- *l'e'* (Juvenile Jacks)
- Ti'ao (Juvenile Goat Fish)
- Manahak (Juvenile Rabbitfish)

**FADs**

Currently, 6 FADs are confirmed online: #6, Agat, Facpi 1, Umatac, #2 and Cocos (Table 4). #5 is unconfirmed. #2 was deployed in October 2019. The Memorandum of Agreement with the Guam Department of Public Works Agency was signed by the Governor, and DAWR is moving forward with the construction of 10 concrete anchors. Purchase orders for new FAD components and deployment will be obtained this new fiscal year.

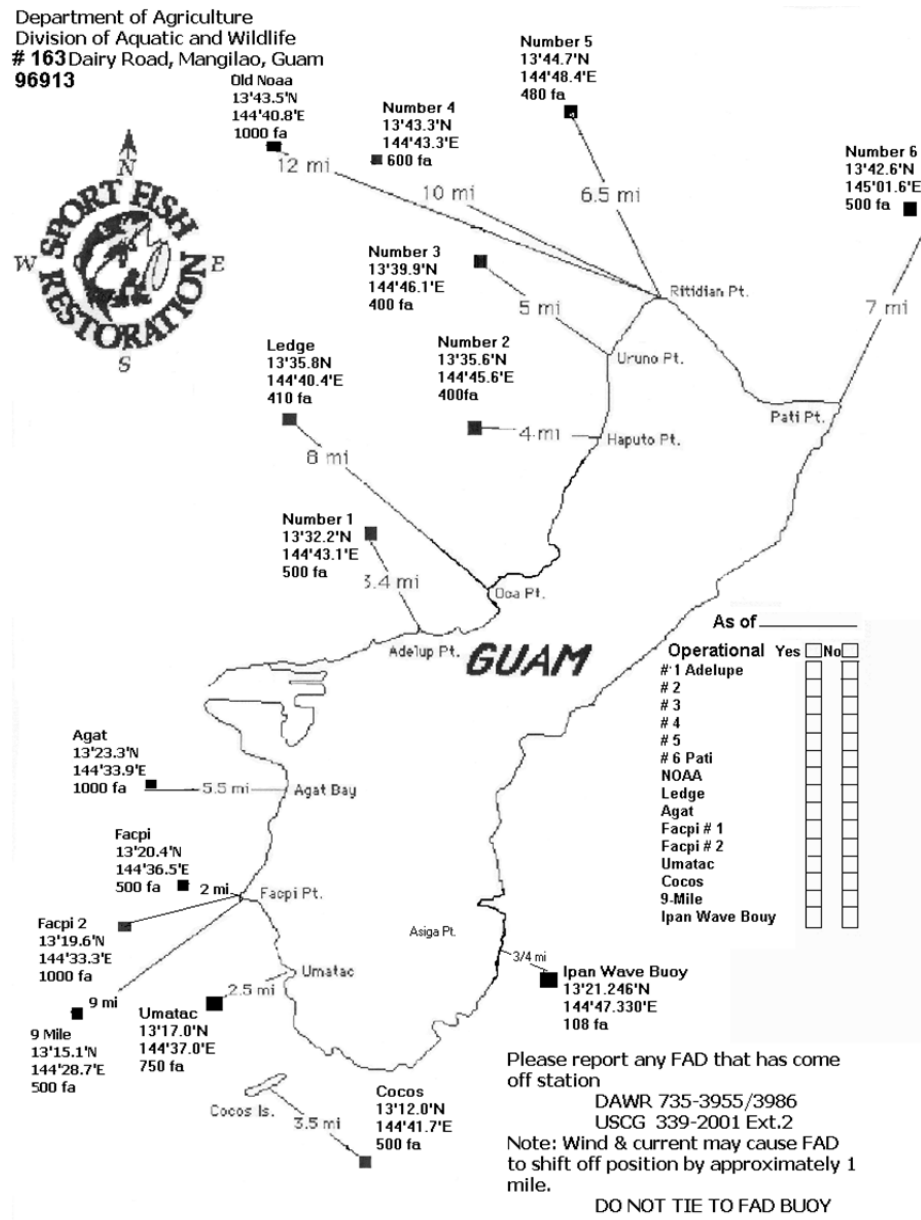


Figure 6. Guam FAD locations



<b>ONLINE:</b>	<b>GPS Coordinates</b>
Number 5 (Unconfirmed)	13°44.7N/144°48.4E
Number 6 (Pati)	13°42.6N/144°01.6E
Facpi	13° 20.4 N/144°36.5E
Umatac	13°17.0N/144°37.0E
Cocos	13°12.0N/144°41.7E
Agat	13° 23.3 N/144° 33.9E
Number 2 (Haputo)	13° 35.6 N/144° 45.6E
<b>OFFLINE:</b>	<b>GPS Coordinates</b>
Number 1 (Adelup)	13°32.2N/144°43.1E
Number 3 (Urunao)	13°39.9N/144°46.1E
Number 4	13°43.3N/144°43.3E
Ledge	13°35.8N/144°40.4E
Facpi 2	13°19.6N/144°33.3E
9 Mile	13° 15.1N/144° 28.7E
Old NOAA	13° 43.5 N/144° 40.8E

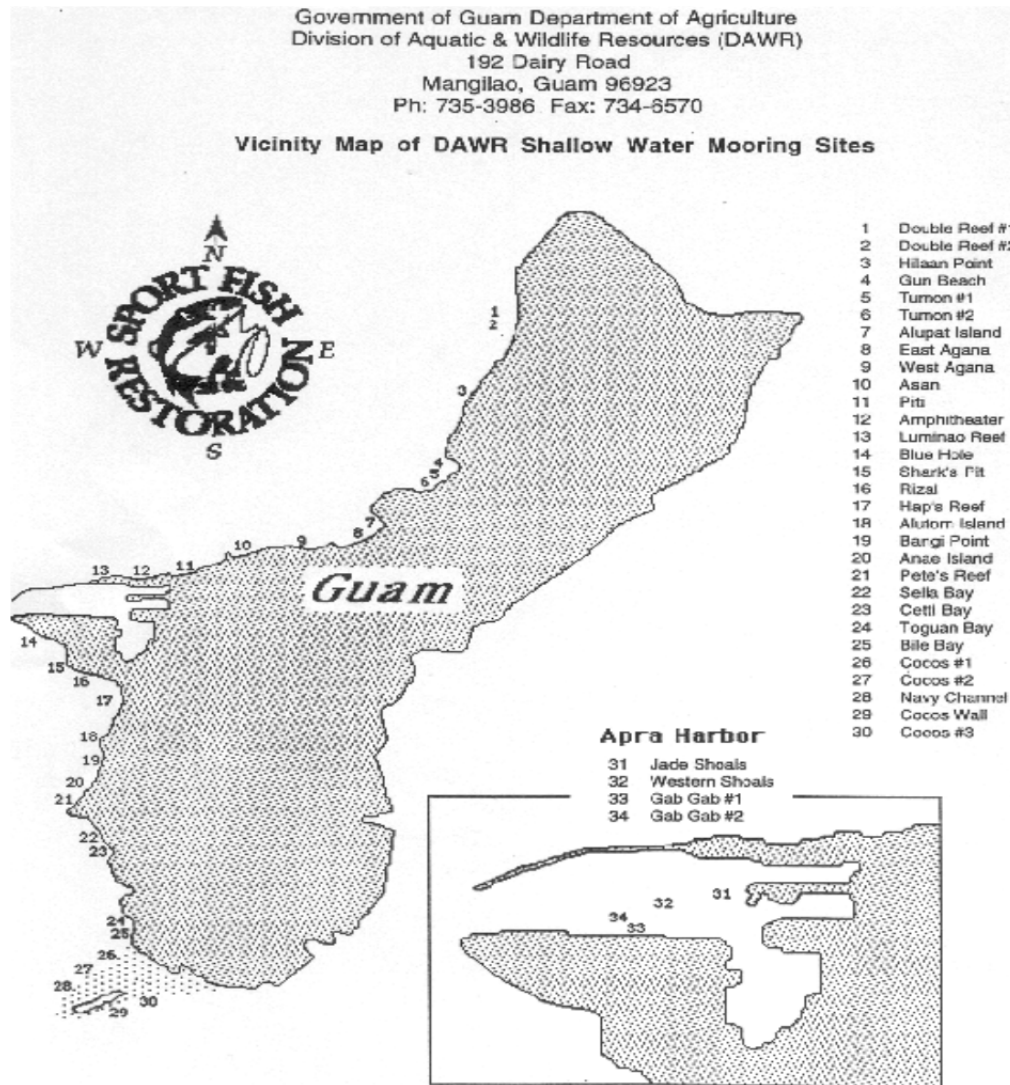
**Table 4. Current status of FADS online and offline while Figure 6 shows the FAD sites.**

**SWMs**

SWM Systems – Plans to procure an additional 15 SWM components are in the progress.

SWM Deployments:

- 10 SWMS were redeployed in December of 2018. Out of 34 sites (Figure 7) only 31 are deployable with intact eyebolt anchors. Plans to secure a contract to perform the installation of new eyebolts for the 3 areas (14. Blue Hole: Anchor failure, 33. Gabgab # 1: Anchor unable to locate, and 34. Gabgab # 2: Anchor unable to locate) that do not have intact eyebolts will be done in FY20 as well as the remaining 14 deployable sites. Currently, 17 SWMS are online (Table 5).



**Figure 7. Guam SWM locations**

No.	Site Name		Coordinates	Depth (ft)
1.	Double Reef #1		13'36.219N / 144'50.105E	33
2.	Double Reef #2		13'35.713N / 144'49.988E	39
3.	Hilaan	x	13'33.763N / 144'48.985E	45
4.	Gun Beach	x	13'31.470N / 144'48.068E	20
5.	Tumon #1		13'31.032N / 144'47.162E	30
6.	Tumon #2		13'30.641N / 144'47.162E	45
7.	Alupat Island		13'21.608N / 144'46.026E	47
8.	East Agana	x	13'29.337N / 144'45.873E	35
9.	West Agana	x	13'29.046N / 144'44.008E	48
10.	Asan		13'28.646N / 144'42.780E	49
11.	Piti		13'28.602N / 144'41.833E	49
12.	Amphitheater		13'27.914N / 144'40.549E	57
13.	Luminao Reef		13'28.070N / 144'39.366E	45
14.	Blue Hole	x	13'26.177N / 144'37.589E	50
15.	Sharks Pit	x	13'25.260N / 144'38.372E	56
16.	Rizal		13'24.666N / 144'38.953E	46
17.	Haps Reef		13'23.678N / 144'39.196E	50
18.	Alutom Island	x	13'23.072N / 144'38.763E	53
19.	Bangi Piont	x	13'22.373N / 144'38.528E	50
20.	Anae Island		13'21.380N / 144'38.240E	20
21.	Pete's Reef	x	13'20.652N / 144'38.265E	55
22.	Sella Bay	x	13'19.361N / 144'39.100E	16
23.	Cetti Bay		13'18.932N / 144'39.188E	35
24.	Tuguan Bay	x	13'17.003N / 144'39.665E	37
25.	Bile Bay		13'16.600N / 144'39.700E	48
26.	Cocos #1	x	13'15.900N / 144'39.258E	46
27.	Cocos #2	x	13'15.061N / 144'38.715E	36
28.	Navy Channel		13'14.485N / 144'38.375E	37
29.	Cocos Wall		13'14.250N / 144'39.552E	45
30.	Cocos #3	x	13'14.249N / 144'40.019E	55
31.	Jade Shoals		13'27.189N / 144'39.720E	45
32.	Western Shoals	x	13'27.020N / 144'29.230E	20
33.	Gabgab #1	x	13'26.694N / 144'38.729E	20
34.	Gabgab #2	x	13'26.706N / 144'38.655E	60

Table 5. Current status of SWMs online and offline.

### **Paseo (Hagatna), Ylig, Togcha 1, and Togcha 2 Fishing Platforms**

A grant amendment is being submitted for review to install solar lights to help enhance fishing opportunities at the fishing platforms. A requisition is being submitted to obtain a purchase order for “Fishing Code of Conduct” signs to promote good traditions, cultural values, and environmental awareness.

### **Sea Turtle**

#### **Stranding Info**

Total of 4 sea turtles were stranded between February 1, 2020 and May 19, 2020

- March 30, 2020: Dead juvenile green sea turtle washed ashore in Talofofu Bay (see photo). It was collected by DAWR staff and placed in freezer for future necropsy.
- April 19, 2020: A barely alive juvenile green sea turtle washed ashore in Talofofu Bay. Surfers notified DAWR and DAWR responded by taking the turtle to UnderWater World, DAWR’s rehabilitation center. NOAA’s Veterinary Medical Officer for the Hawaiian Monk Seal Research Program, Dr. Michelle Barbieri, kept in contact via email to assist with possible rehabilitation treatments including hydration and antibacterial medicine. However, after a few days, the turtle died. It is now in DAWR’s possession to be necropsied at a later date.
- April 26, 2020: Sea turtle remains were reported in Agat. On April 27, DAWR staff picked up the remains of two juvenile sea turtles and a knife. One is a possible hawksbill sea turtle and the other a green sea turtle. Both carcasses are in the freezer until further examination can be done.



**Figure 8. March 30, 2020 stranded green sea turtle with short surfboard for scale.**

**Man-o-Wars and Box Jellyfish**

Traditionally, the summer months are when the majority of jellyfish stings occur, with a peak in July. Box Jellyfish were observed from May 17, 2020 to May 21, 2020 with one sting reported. Man-o-Wars were observed around the end of April 2020 up north at Tarague in Anderson Air Force Base.

