

Department of Marine & Wildlife Resources
Report on the NMFS Logbook Program for the
American Samoa Longline Fishery
April-June 2006

September 21, 2006

Logbook data in this report are summarized by date of haul as shown in the following table. All submitted logbook data for longline activities during the second quarter of 2006 have been processed and are reported in this preliminary report. As of September 21, 2006, the documented delinquency rate according to the DMWR Daily Effort Census and Delinquency Reporting System for the second quarter of 2006 was 2.98%. The summary data in this report are considered preliminary and subject to change as additional delinquent data are received and processed.

According to the Daily Effort Census, 25 vessels were engaged in longline fishing during the second quarter of 2006 and 24 of these vessels turned in some or all of their longline logs for sets made during the quarter. These 24 vessels made 1,238 sets and set 3,495,822 hooks. This quarter reflects the trend in American Samoa toward a smaller number of vessels of larger size setting more hooks. The number of vessels participating this quarter is down from the 29 vessels fishing in the 2nd Quarter of 2005, yet the number of sets increased by 29% and the number of hooks set increased by 46% compared to the year ago quarter. The average number of hooks per set increased again from 2762 in the 1st Quarter of 2006 to 2823, reflecting the continuing demise of the alia longline fleet and the increasing size of the large longlining fleet. Almost all of the longline fishing in American Samoa is now done by the large vessels. Many of the alia are no longer active and those that are active are bottomfishing. The demand and price/pound for bottomfish is higher in the local Samoan market than it is for pelagic fish and bottomfishing requires less fuel, bait and equipment.

The total catch for all species of 90,390 fish was up by only 3.7% compared to the second quarter of last year. Albacore continued to dominate the catch with 65,540 fish caught in the second quarter of 2006. This is a 19% increase from the 54,900 albacore caught in the second quarter of last year and is a 86% increase from the albacore catch during the first quarter of 2006 which is slow quarter for longline fishing in American Samoa. Catches of other tunas were up slightly or down from the year ago quarter with bigeye tuna up 5.6%, skipjack tuna down 39% and yellowfin tuna down 53%. Catches for all other pelagic species except for sharks was up or up sharply from the 2^{ns} Quarter of 2005. The catch of mahimahi was up 19%, the catch of wahoo and billfish was slightly more than twice what it was during the second quarter of last year. The shark catch was down 15% from the year ago quarter

With the exception of wahoo and billfish the catch/1000 hooks or CPUE for all species was down from the 2nd quarter of 2005 some more than others. Albacore CPUE was down by 18% of its year ago value, the bigeye tuna CPUE was down by 27%, the skipjack tuna CPUE was down more than half at 58% and the yellowfin tuna CPUE was also down by more than one third at 67%. The mahimahi CPUE was down by 18% and the shark CPUE was down by 42%. The wahoo CPUE was up 39% from the second quarter of last year and the billfish CPUE was up 41%

Western Pacific Logbook Summary Report for 2nd Quarter 2006

Vessels landing or based in American Samoa
Based on Date of Haul for all areas

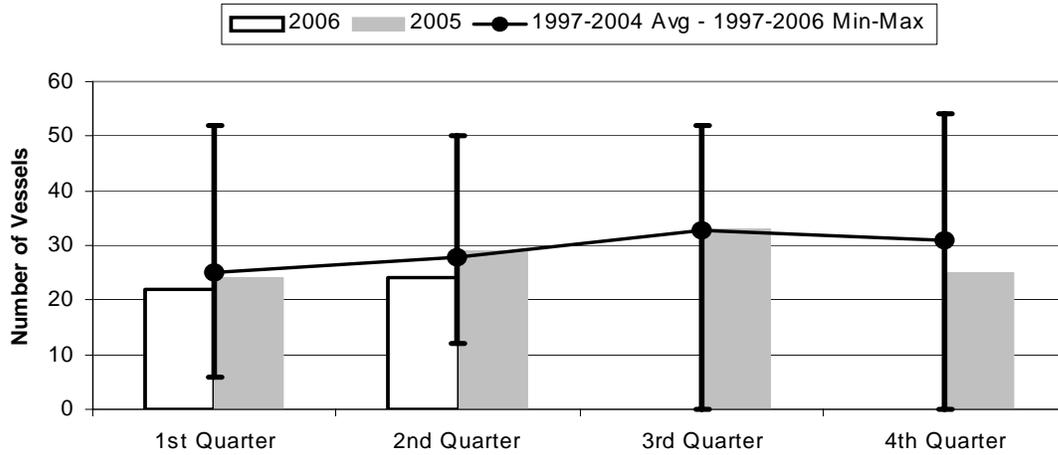
TRIP INFORMATION

Number of Vessels:	24
Number of Sets:	1238
1000's of Hooks Set:	3496
Number of Lightsticks Used:	5225

CATCH INFORMATION

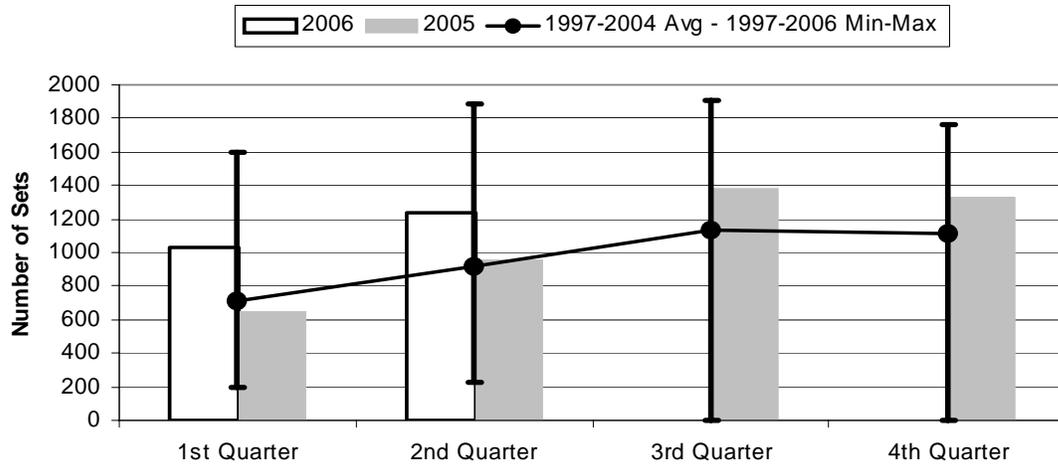
Species	# Caught	# Kept	# Finned	# Caught/ 1000 Hooks
BILLFISH				
Blue marlin	549	107		0.16
Striped Marlin	112	33		0.03
Sailfish	273	142		0.08
Spearfish	321	14		0.09
Swordfish	115	73		0.03
TOTALS	1370	369		0.39
SHARKS				
Blue shark	1441	3		0.41
Shortfin Mako Shark	73	0		0.02
Thresher Shark	74	0		0.02
White Tip Oceanic Shark	257	0		0.07
Other Pelagic Sharks	64	2		0.02
TOTALS	1909	5		0.55
TUNA				
Albacore	65540	65531		18.75
Bigeye Tuna	2628	2521		0.75
Bluefin Tuna	2	2		0.00
Skipjack Tuna	7848	6430		2.25
Yellowfin Tuna	4583	4509		1.31
TOTALS	80601	78993		23.06
OTHER PELAGICS				
Mahimahi	1378	786		0.39
Moonfish	125	36		0.04
Oilfish	781	100		0.22
Pomfret	97	23		0.03
Wahoo	4058	3806		1.16
TOTALS	6439	4751		1.84
NON-PMUS				
Other Pelagic Fish	70	15		0.02
TOTALS	70	15		0.02

Figure 1. American Samoa Longline Vessels Submitting Logs by Quarter for



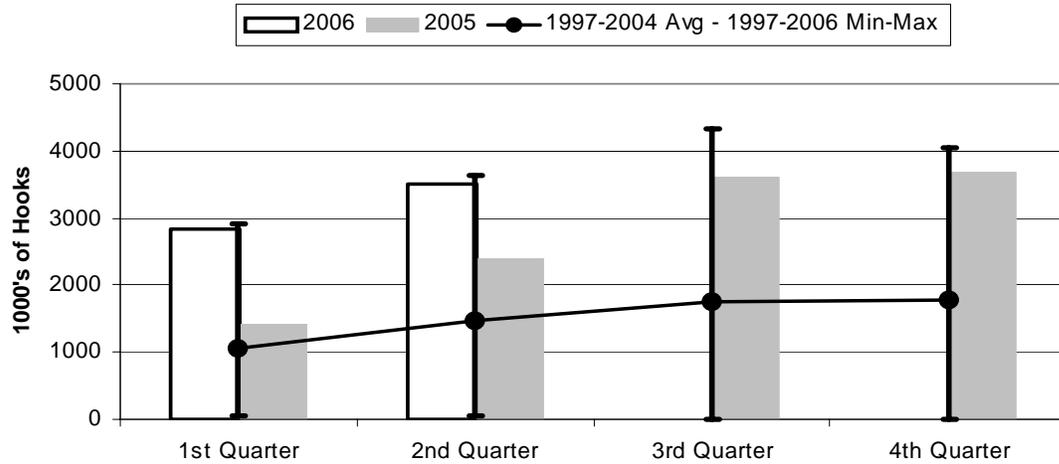
	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
2006	22	24	0	0
2005	24	29	33	25
1997-2006 Max	52	50	52	54
1997-2004 Avg	25.0	27.9	32.9	31.0
1997-2006 Min	6	12	0	0

Figure 2. Number of Sets by American Samoa Longline Vessels by Quarter for



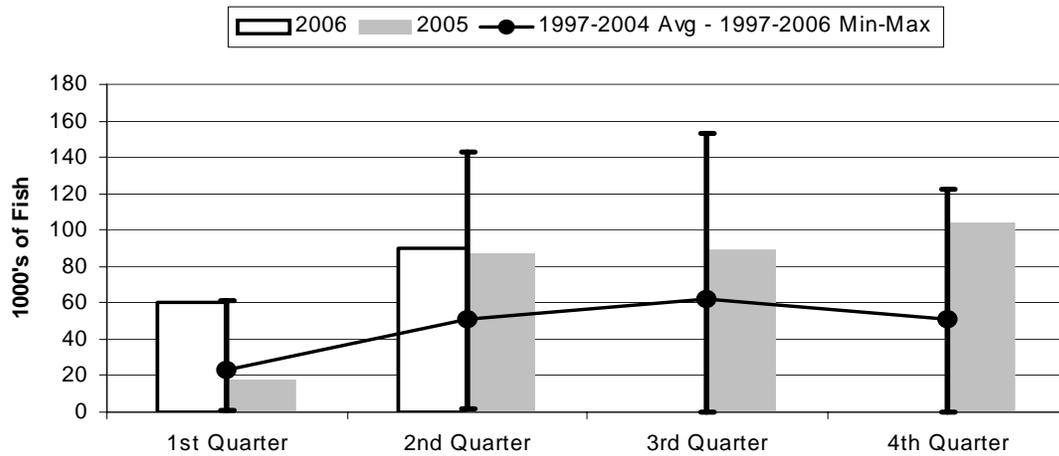
	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
2006	1027	1238	0	0
2005	654	956	1383	1326
1997-2006 Max	1602	1886	1903	1758
1997-2004 Avg	715	913	1130	1110
1997-2006 Min	192	223	0	0

Figure 3. Number of Hooks Set by the American Samoa Longline Fleet by Quarter for



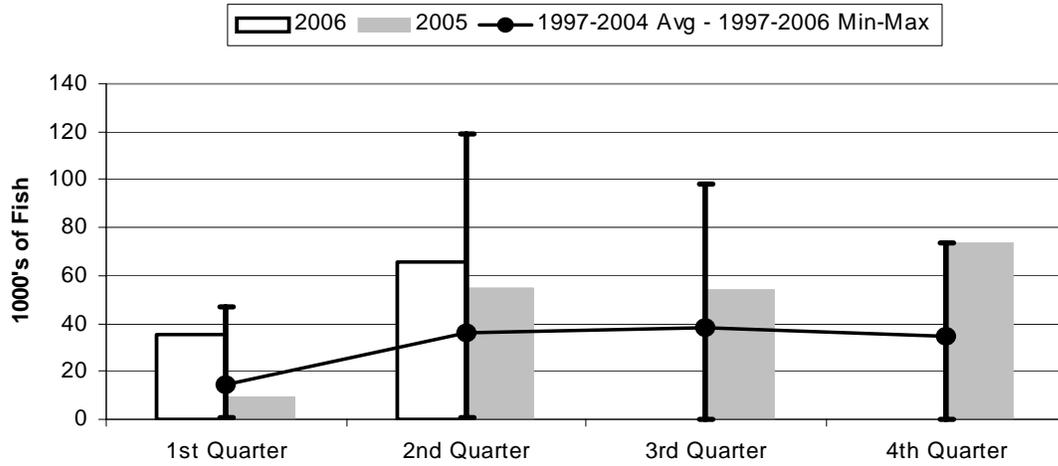
	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
2006	2837	3496	0	0
2005	1429	2400	3605	3685
1997-2006 Max	2902	3629	4338	4044
1997-2004 Avg	1044	1462	1751	1766
1997-2006 Min	41	51	0	0

Figure 4. American Samoa Longline Total Catch (All Species) by Quarter for



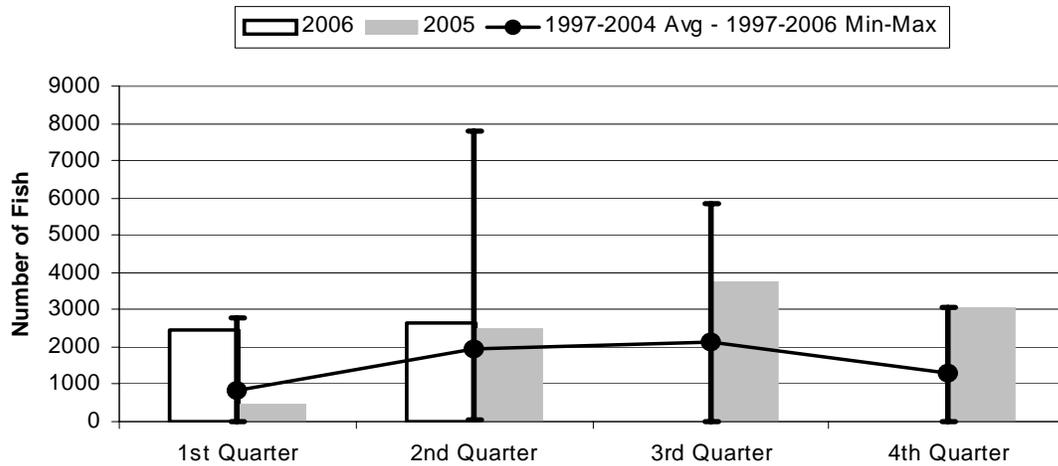
	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
2006	60.64	90.39	0.00	0.00
2005	17.21	87.16	88.71	104.31
1997-2006 Max	61.24	142.60	153.30	122.34
1997-2004 Avg	22.92	50.84	62.07	51.24
1997-2006 Min	1.32	1.42	0.00	0.00

Figure 5. American Samoa Longline Albacore Catch by Quarter for



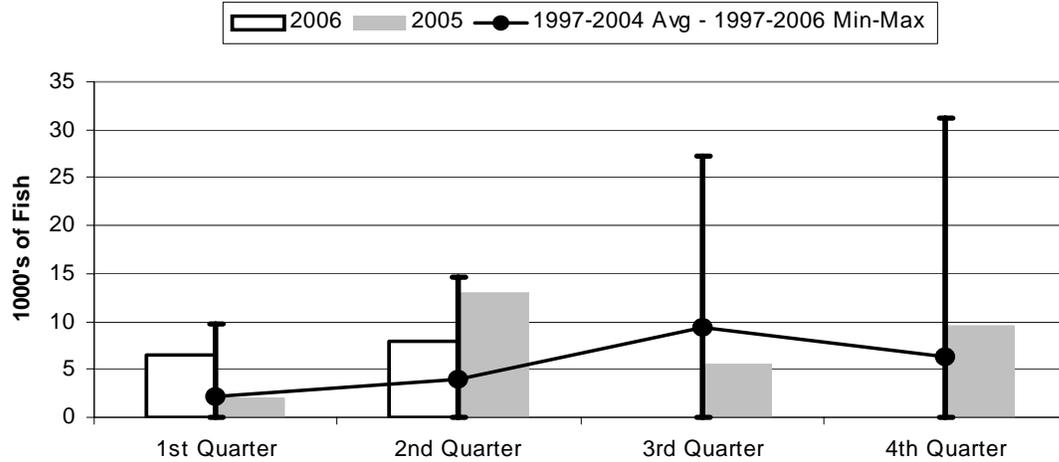
	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
2006	35.14	65.54	0.00	0.00
2005	9.42	54.90	54.46	73.80
1997-2006 Max	46.98	118.99	98.09	73.80
1997-2004 Avg	14.41	35.94	37.92	34.80
1997-2006 Min	0.94	0.85	0.00	0.00

Figure 6. American Samoa Longline Bigeye Tuna Catch by Quarter for



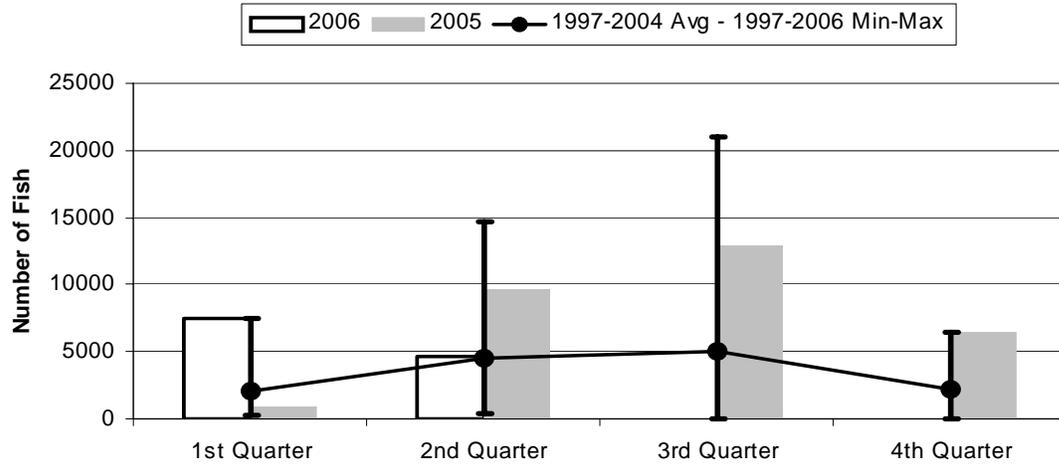
	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
2006	2437	2628	0	0
2005	461	2489	3742	3060
1997-2006 Max	2781	7785	5834	3060
1997-2004 Avg	821	1960	2137	1322
1997-2006 Min	6	26	0	0

Figure 7. American Samoa Longline Skipjack Tuna Catch by Quarter for



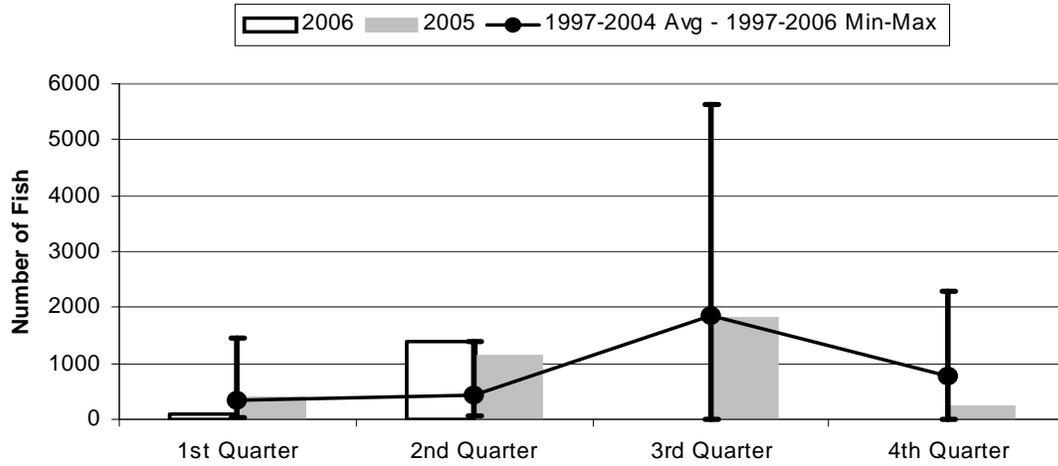
	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
2006	6.58	7.85	0.00	0.00
2005	2.06	12.93	5.64	9.55
1997-2006 Max	9.81	14.61	27.23	31.19
1997-2004 Avg	2.22	3.92	9.32	6.32
1997-2006 Min	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00

Figure 8. American Samoa Longline Yellowfin Tuna Catch by Quarter for



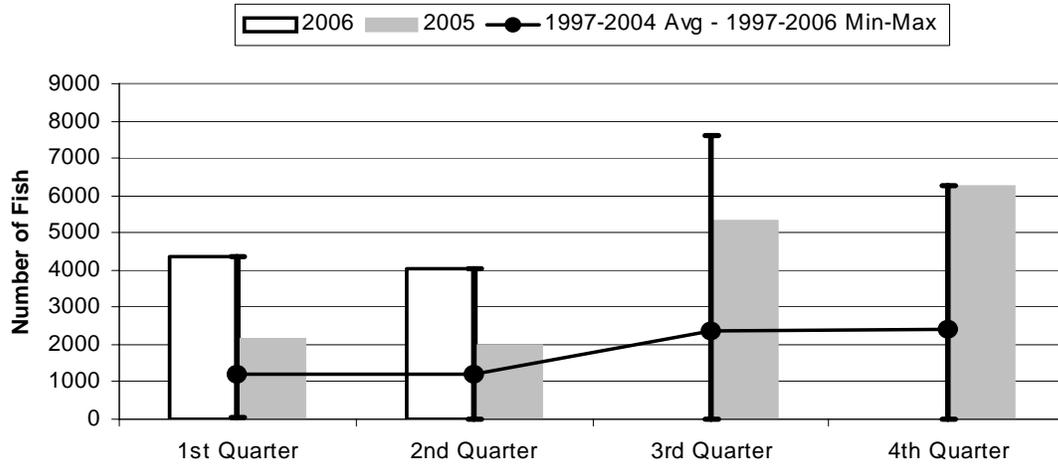
	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
2006	7419	4583	0	0
2005	951	9680	12944	6480
1997-2006 Max	7419	14681	20993	6480
1997-2004 Avg	2088	4486	5015	2177
1997-2006 Min	213	356	0	0

Figure 9. American Samoa Mahimahi Catch by Quarter for



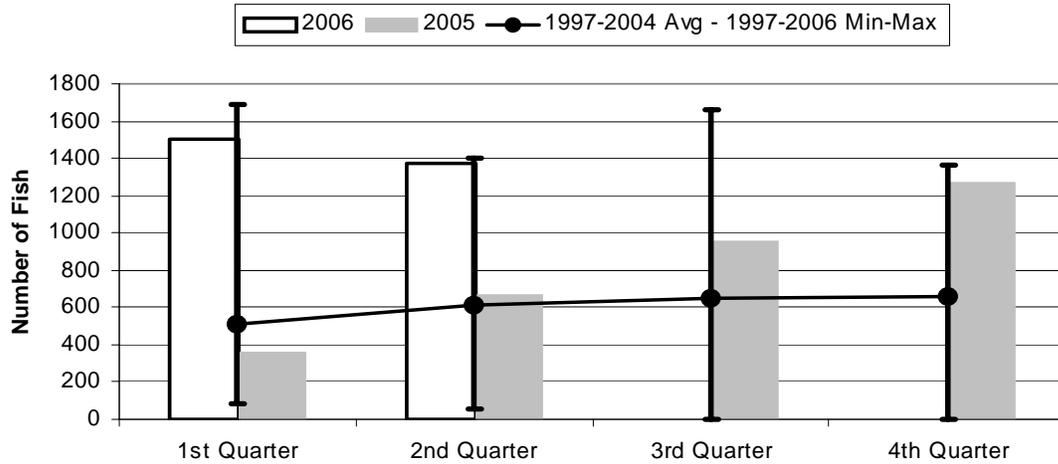
	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
2006	97	1378	0	0
2005	409	1154	1813	235
1997-2006 Max	1455	1378	5642	2297
1997-2004 Avg	330	437	1862	769
1997-2006 Min	30	59	0	0

Figure 10. American Samoa Wahoo Catch by Quarter for



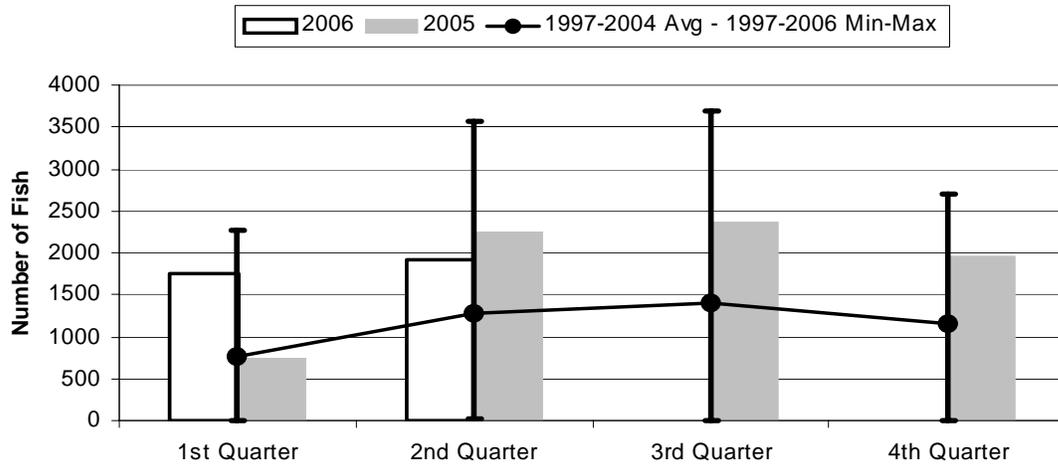
	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
2006	4367	4058	0	0
2005	2158	2007	5341	6267
1997-2006 Max	4367	4058	7629	6267
1997-2004 Avg	1202	1183	2349	2405
1997-2006 Min	27	20	0	0

Figure 11. American Samoa Billfish Catch by Quarter for



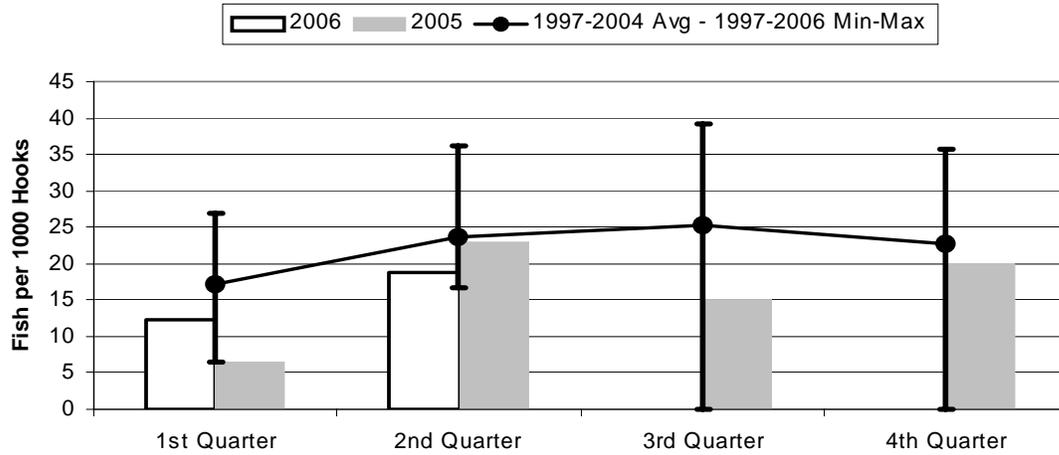
	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
2006	1507	1370	0	0
2005	360	668	958	1268
1997-2006 Max	1692	1404	1663	1361
1997-2004 Avg	509	615	645	655
1997-2006 Min	83	58	0	0

Figure 12. American Samoa Shark Catch by Quarter for



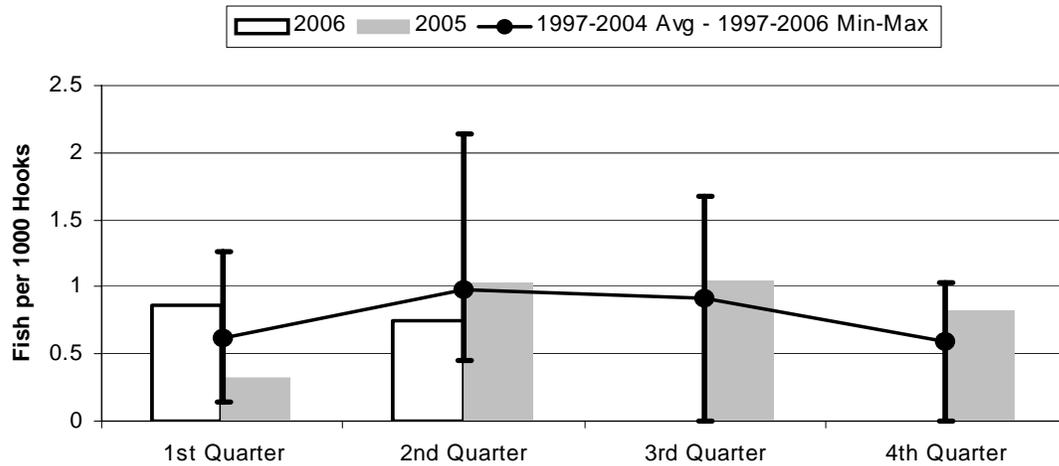
	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
2006	1757	1909	0	0
2005	747	2251	2366	1969
1997-2006 Max	2262	3562	3686	2695
1997-2004 Avg	767	1270	1394	1152
1997-2006 Min	5	16	0	0

Figure 13. American Samoa Longline Albacore Catch/1000 Hooks by Quarter for



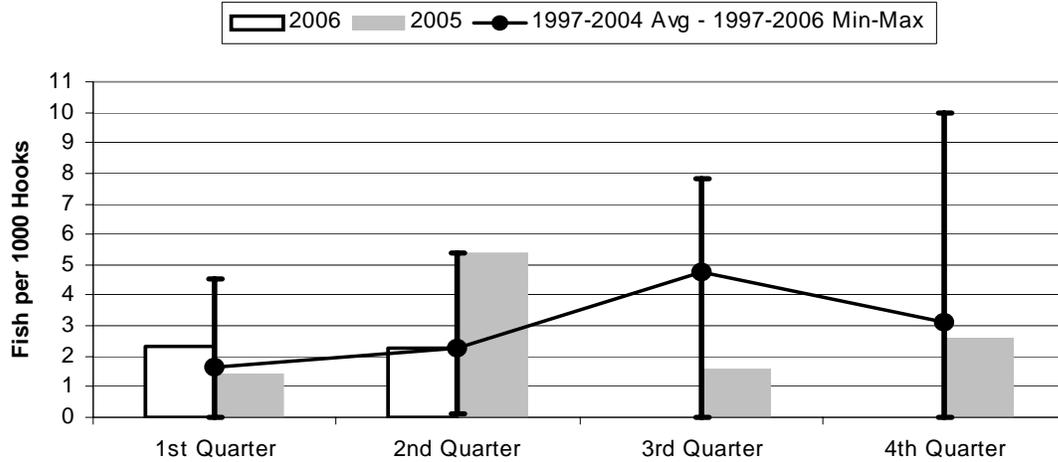
	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
2006	12.39	18.75	0.00	0.00
2005	6.59	22.88	15.10	20.03
1997-2006 Max	27.01	36.18	39.13	35.75
1997-2004 Avg	17.17	23.62	25.37	22.69
1997-2006 Min	6.59	16.77	0.00	0.00

Figure 14. American Samoa Longline Bigeye Tuna Catch/1000 Hooks by Quarter for



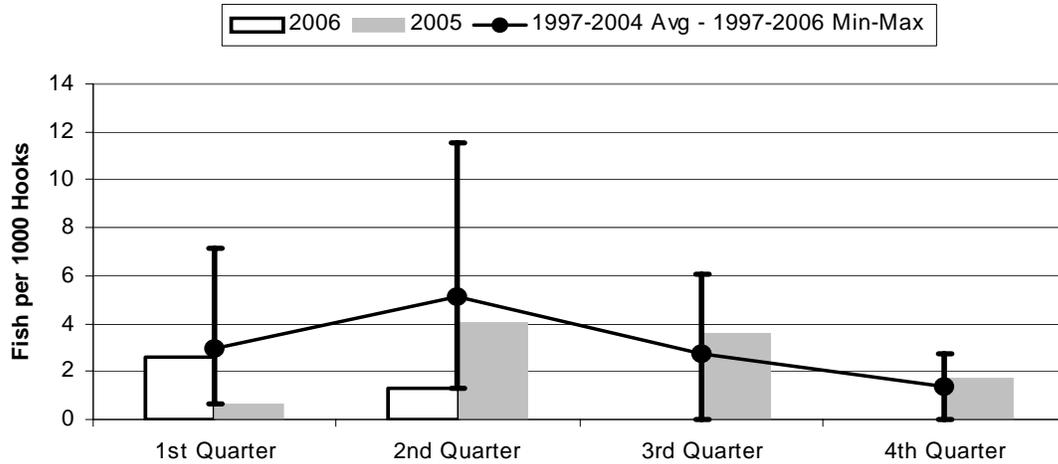
	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
2006	0.859	0.752	0.000	0.000
2005	0.323	1.037	1.038	0.830
1997-2006 Max	1.267	2.145	1.679	1.030
1997-2004 Avg	0.619	0.982	0.915	0.595
1997-2006 Min	0.146	0.452	0.000	0.000

Figure 15. American Samoa Longline Skipjack Tuna Catch/1000 Hooks by Quarter for



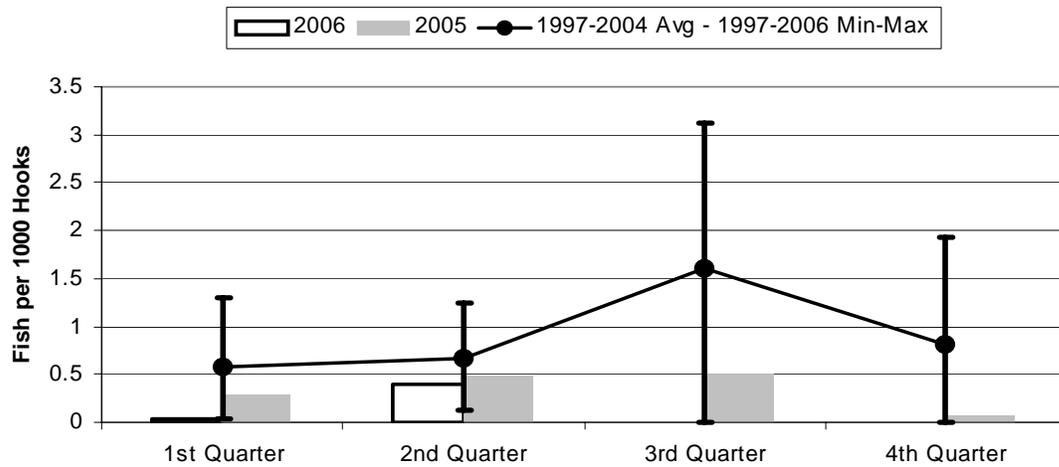
	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
2006	2.319	2.245	0.000	0.000
2005	1.444	5.388	1.565	2.591
1997-2006 Max	4.556	5.388	7.837	9.975
1997-2004 Avg	1.667	2.247	4.789	3.123
1997-2006 Min	0.000	0.118	0.000	0.000

Figure 16. American Samoa Yellowfin Tuna Catch/1000 Hooks by Quarter for



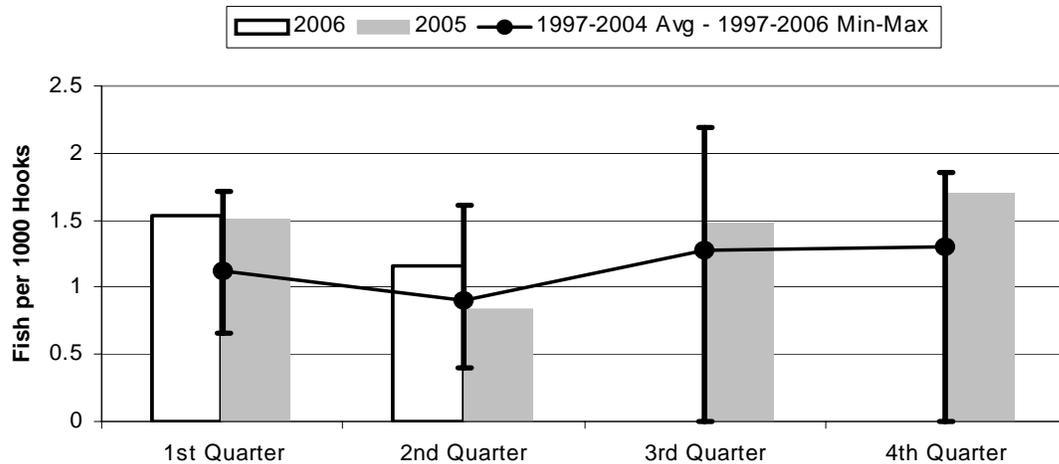
	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
2006	2.615	1.311	0.000	0.000
2005	0.665	4.034	3.590	1.758
1997-2006 Max	7.120	11.51	6.041	2.757
1997-2004 Avg	2.974	5.138	2.709	1.353
1997-2006 Min	0.665	1.311	0.000	0.000

Figure 17. American Samoa Longline Mahimahi Catch/1000 Hooks by Quarter for



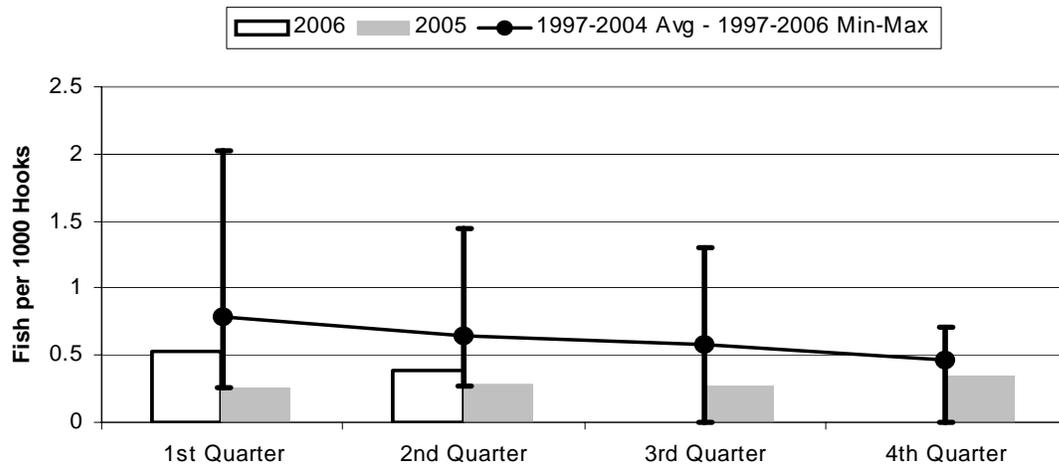
	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
2006	0.034	0.394	0.000	0.000
2005	0.286	0.481	0.503	0.064
1997-2006 Max	1.304	1.248	3.125	1.932
1997-2004 Avg	0.581	0.669	1.611	0.806
1997-2006 Min	0.034	0.123	0.000	0.000

Figure 18. American Samoa Wahoo Catch/1000 Hooks by Quarter for



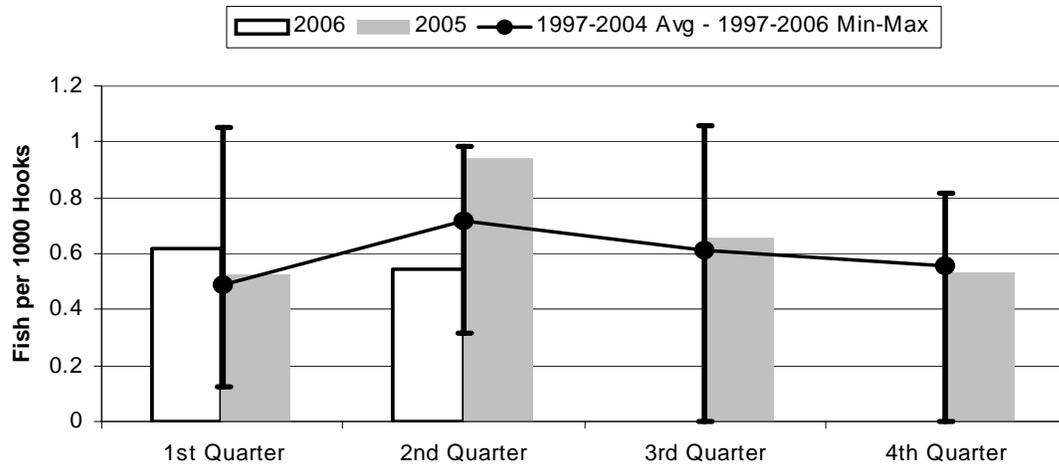
	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
2006	1.540	1.161	0.000	0.000
2005	1.510	0.836	1.481	1.701
1997-2006 Max	1.710	1.617	2.195	1.861
1997-2004 Avg	1.118	0.903	1.280	1.299
1997-2006 Min	0.657	0.394	0.000	0.000

Figure 19. American Samoa Billfish Catch/1000 Hooks by Quarter for



	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
2006	0.531	0.392	0.000	0.000
2005	0.252	0.278	0.266	0.344
1997-2006 Max	2.019	1.439	1.306	0.712
1997-2004 Avg	0.783	0.649	0.585	0.465
1997-2006 Min	0.252	0.268	0.000	0.000

Figure 20. American Samoa Shark Catch/1000 Hooks by Quarter for



	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
2006	0.619	0.546	0.000	0.000
2005	0.523	0.938	0.656	0.534
1997-2006 Max	1.051	0.986	1.061	0.819
1997-2004 Avg	0.491	0.716	0.610	0.556
1997-2006 Min	0.122	0.315	0.000	0.000