

PIFSC Report on the American Samoa Longline Fishery Calendar Year 2008¹

Fisheries Monitoring and Socioeconomics Division
Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center

The American Samoa federal longline logbook data are summarized by date of haul as shown in Table 1. All longline logbook data submitted by holders of federal limited entry longline permits for fishing activities during 2008 have been processed by staff at the Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources (DMWR) and are included in this preliminary report. The data in the report are from the logs submitted to DMWR as of February 5, 2009. As of this date, the documented delinquency rate for 2008 was 1.3%, with data from 2 out of 148 large longline vessel trips not yet received or entered in the database.

During calendar year 2008, 28 vessels turned in longline logs for 287 trips made during the year (Figure 1). The logbooks submitted by the 28 vessels indicated they made 4,730 sets and set 14,371,667 hooks. The number of vessels turning in logs is one less than the 29 that turned in logs last year. The number of sets is down by 20% (Figure 2) and the number of hooks set decreased by 18% (Figure 3) compared to 2007.

Albacore continued to dominate the catch with 204,292 fish caught in 2008 (Figure 4), which is a 36% decrease from the catch of last year. Catches of skipjack tuna decreased by 13% from last year, while catches of yellowfin tuna decreased by 56% and bigeye tuna decreased by 54% (Figure 5). Catches of billfish, mahimahi, wahoo, and sharks for 2008 decreased by 22%, 14%, 39% and 13%, respectively, compared to 2007 values (Figure 6).

Albacore CPUE (number of fish caught per 1000 hooks) decreased by 22% to 14.2 in 2008 compared to 18.3 in 2007 (Figure 7). This is the second lowest annual CPUE for albacore since the modern American Samoa longline fishery began. The CPUE of skipjack tuna increased by 6%, the CPUE for yellowfin tuna decreased by 47%, and the CPUE for bigeye tuna decreased by 44% compared to 2007 values (Figure 8). Wahoo and billfish CPUE decreased by 26% and 6%, respectively, while mahimahi CPUE was unchanged and CPUE of sharks increased by 8% compared to 2007 (Figure 9).

¹ PIFSC Data Report DR-09-003
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Table 1. Summary of fish catch and nominal fishing effort by American Samoa Longline vessels during calendar year 2008 based on longline logbooks submitted before Feb. 5, 2009

TRIP INFORMATION				
	Number of Vessels:		28	
	Number of Trips:		287	
	Number of Sets:		4,730	
	1000's of Hooks Set:		14,372	
	Number of Light Sticks Used:		128	
CATCH INFORMATION				
Species	Number Caught	Number Kept	Number Released	Number Caught per 1000 Hooks
BILLFISH				
Black marlin	45	1	44	0.00
Blue marlin	2,707	560	2,147	0.19
Striped marlin	313	23	290	0.02
Sailfish	449	21	428	0.03
Spearfish	784	35	749	0.05
Swordfish	215	117	98	0.02
TOTAL BILLFISH	4,513	757	3,756	0.31
SHARKS				
Blue shark	4,255	15	4,240	0.30
Shortfin mako shark	229	2	227	0.02
Thresher shark	233	0	233	0.02
White tip oceanic shark	996	2	994	0.07
Sharks	126	1	125	0.01
TOTAL SHARKS	5,839	20	5,819	0.41
TUNA				
Albacore tuna	204,292	203,793	499	14.21
Bigeye tuna	7,043	6,663	380	0.49
Bluefin tuna	6	5	1	0.00
Skipjack tuna	35,082	30,640	4,442	2.44
Yellowfin tuna	14,818	14,598	220	1.03
TOTAL TUNA	261,241	255,699	5,542	18.18
OTHER PELAGICS				
Mahimahi	1,928	1,228	700	0.13
Moonfish	598	108	490	0.04
Oilfish	5,252	25	5,227	0.37
Pomfret	1,108	66	1,042	0.08
Wahoo	10,639	8,836	1,803	0.74
TOTAL OTHER PELAGICS	19,525	10,263	9,262	1.36
NON-PMUS				
Pelagic fishes (unknown)	387	5	382	0.03
TOTAL NON-PMUS	387	5	382	0.03
TOTAL ALL SPECIES	291,505	266,744	24,761	20.28

Figure 1. American Samoa Longline Vessels by Year

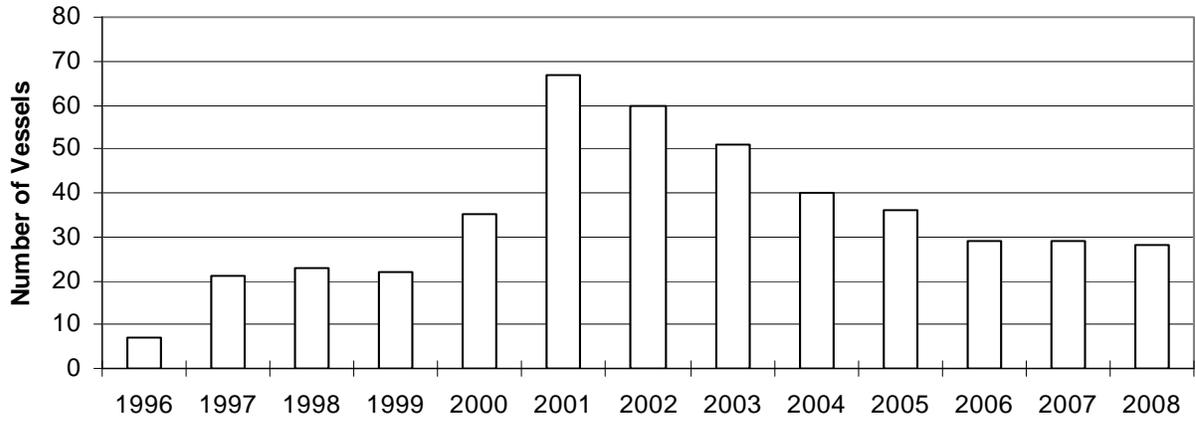


Figure 2. Number of Sets by American Samoa Longline Vessels by Year

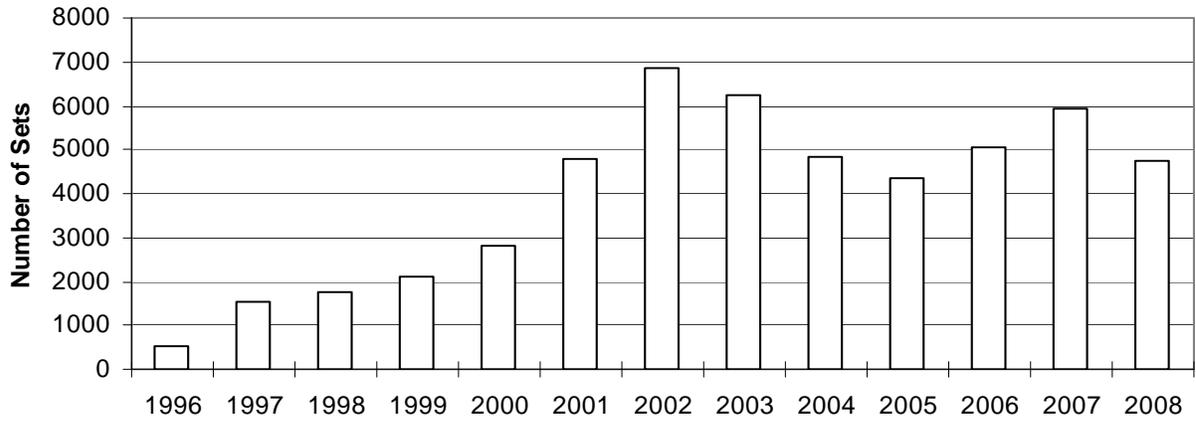


Figure 3. Number of Hooks Set by the American Samoa Longline Fleet by Year

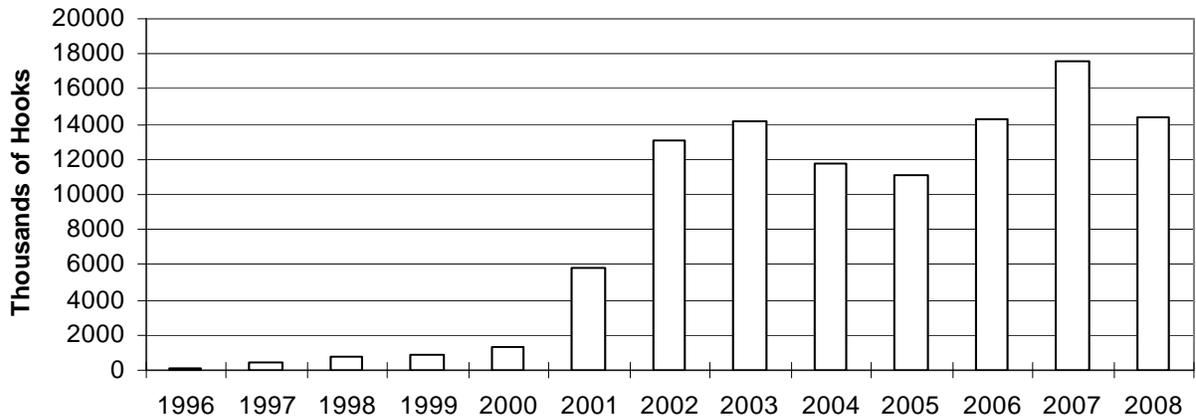


Figure 4. American Samoa Longline Albacore Catch by Year

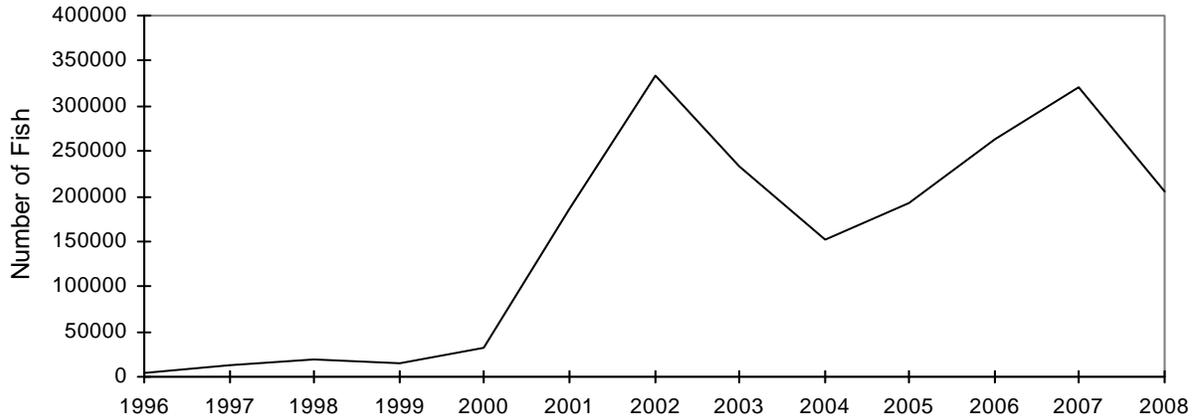


Figure 5. American Samoa Longline Tuna Catch by Year

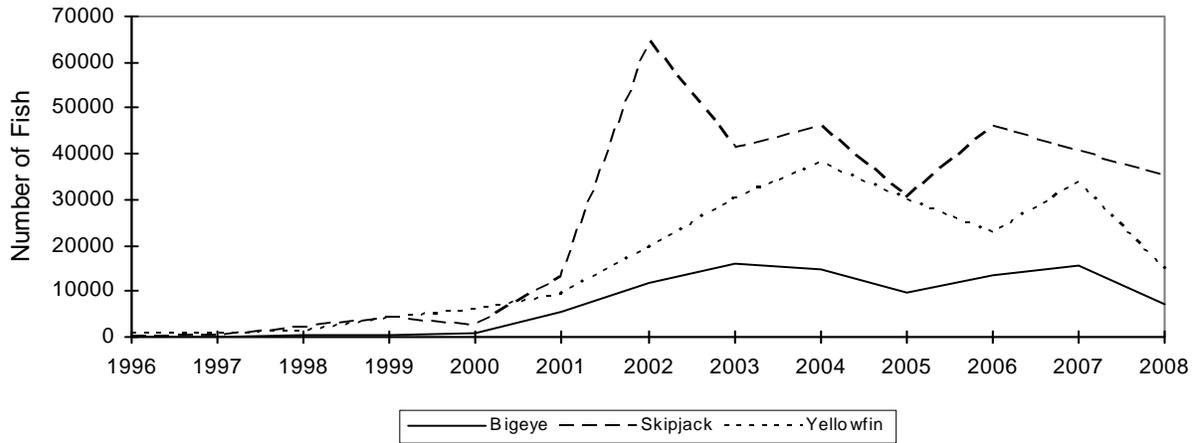


Figure 6. American Samoa Longline Catch of Miscellaneous Pelagic Fish by Year

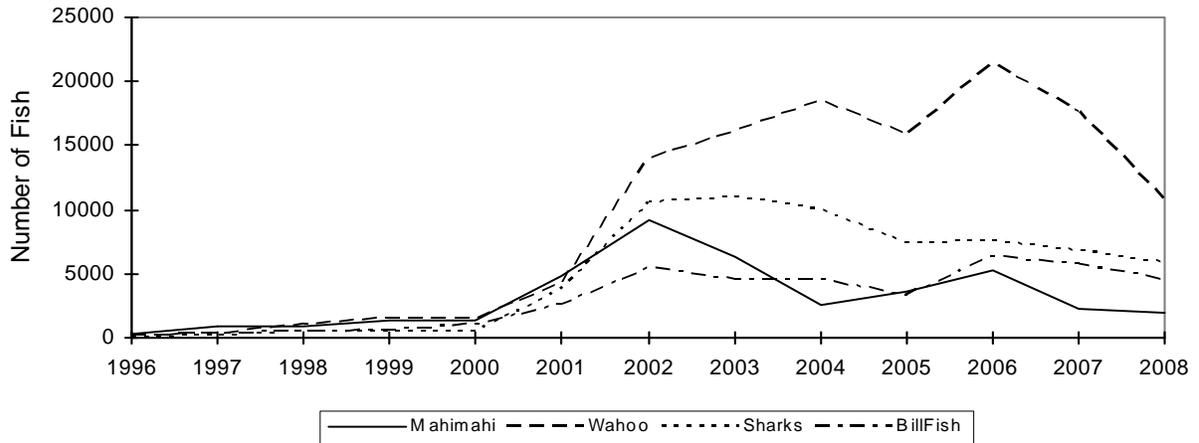


Figure 7. American Samoa Longline Albacore Catch per 1000 Hooks by Year

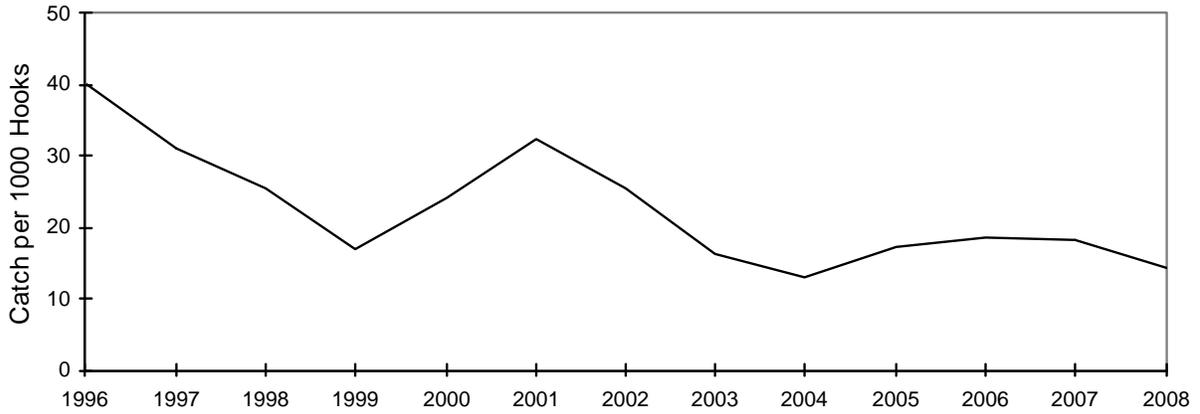


Figure 8. American Samoa Longline Tuna Catch per 1000 Hooks by Year

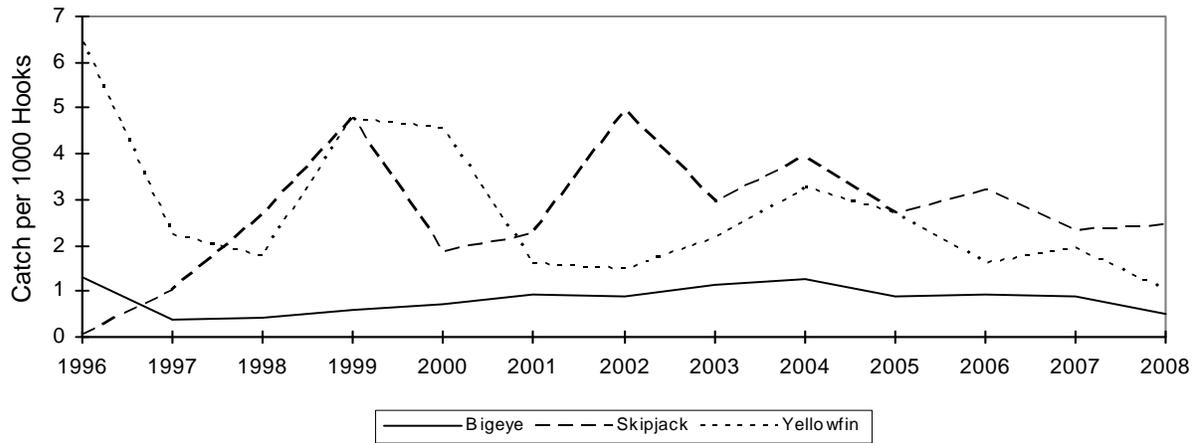


Figure 9. American Samoa Longline Catch of Other Pelagic Fish per 1000 Hooks by Year

